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Japan

Mounting Tension Seen Over Framework Talks

OW2909134894 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 27 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 7

[By reporter Hideya Aoki]

[Text] Washington, 25 Sep—It was learned on 25 September that as the Japanese-U.S. framework trade talks approach the final rounds, the United States has pressed Japan with more new demands, one after another, in negotiations over such trade sectors as sheet glass and automobiles and auto parts, which is one of the three priority areas under the framework trade talks. Disputes over the government procurement sector, which is currently the focal issue, has become more marked. As a result, Japanese negotiators have come to strongly suspect that "the authorization of trade sanctions under the Super 301 provision (regarding determining and imposing punitive action against unfair trade partners and trade practices) of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act may be unavoidable in several areas, such as auto parts and sheet glass."

Consequently, it has become more than likely that no agreement will be reached at the fifth round of negotiations between Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, who is currently visiting the United States, and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor scheduled for 28 September in New York and that the trade talks will drag on until the 30 September deadline at which point the United States may impose trade sanctions against Japan.

According to a source from the Japanese negotiating team, in order to increase the sales of U.S. auto parts, U.S. negotiators have previously demanded partial easing of the Japanese Government's system of designating and certifying automobile repair shops which handle repair parts. In trade negotiations held since Foreign Minister Kono arrived in the United States on 21 September, U.S. negotiators stepped up their demands drastically. They started demanding that the Japanese Government implement more radical and comprehensive deregulation of its designation and certification system regarding automobile repair shops.

The basic strategy that Japanese negotiators had in mind has been to hopefully reach a partial agreement in the automobiles and auto parts sector by agreeing to a partial deregulation regarding standards for and certification of assembled automobiles and automobile repair shops, among other things, while persistently rejecting U.S. demands which are outside the government's jurisdiction. Among such U.S. demands are the raising of voluntary target goals that Japanese automakers have set for purchasing U.S. auto parts and the expansion of car dealers' networks handling foreign automobiles. Japanese negotiators are now faced with reviewing their basic strategy.

Meanwhile, in negotiations over revising the "Japanese-U.S. Agreement on Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) Corporation Procurement Projects"—which have been conducted separately, in form, from the framework trade talks (regarding the government procurement sector)—U.S. negotiators have been firmly demanding the introduction of objective criteria which are similar to the numerical targets on which the U.S. Government has been insisting in negotiations over the government procurement sector. Japanese negotiators have rejected this demand on such grounds as that the agreement on NTT procurement projects never included numerical-target-like criteria to begin with and that the agreement is a private-sector deal that is outside the government's jurisdiction.

However, U.S. negotiators have conveyed their intention to pursue a hardline policy, saying: "The government procurement sector and the NTT issue must be dealt with together, and there can be no agreement on one without an agreement on the other." Thus, with the 30 September U.S. deadline for imposing trade sanctions against Japan rapidly approaching, the situation regarding negotiations over trade sectors under the bilateral framework trade talks, excluding the insurance services sector over which a basic agreement has already been reached, has further intensified.

Tokyo's Steps Against Sanctions

OW3009040494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0344 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 30 KYODO—Japan will seek settlement of its trade dispute with the United States through an international organ if Washington moves to take punitive steps, Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Friday [30 September].

"Tokyo is prepared to take due steps if adverse effects arise as a result of trade sanctions," Hashimoto told a regular press conference.

The remark indicates Japan's readiness to take the trade issue to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) if the U.S. slaps sanctions on Tokyo under domestic laws.

Hashimoto acknowledged a wide gap remains between the two countries over how to expand Japanese purchases of American-made auto parts, despite intense talks between him and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor earlier this week.

Hashimoto, who held talks with Kantor in Washington Tuesday and Wednesday, briefly returned to Japan to attend the extraordinary sitting of the Diet that starts Friday.

He will depart again for Washington Friday afternoon, in a last- ditch search for a breakthrough in auto parts talks, the most difficult sector of the "framework talks for new bilateral economic and trade ties.

Washington set Friday as a deadline for launching procedures for trade sanctions under two domestic laws—Super 301 and Title Seven of the 1988 Omnibus Trade Act.

Hashimoto said the gap is widening instead of closing in the trade talks on U.S. access to Japan's auto service parts market.

In early September, Tokyo offered to relax regulations on imported service parts such as brakes and clutches.

Hashimoto said the offer was intended to help achieve a partial accord in the framework talks and stave off U.S. trade sanctions.

Washington reportedly agreed to the Japanese proposal for a partial deal.

But at Friday's news conference, Hashimoto said, "The hands of the clock moved backward slightly," and that Washington does not appear to want to compromise by striking a partial accord.

Hashimoto said the two countries remain apart on issues such as Japan's mandatory car inspection system. Washington wants it abolished while Japan wants to modify it.

Hashimoto said the U.S. does not agree with the Japanese view that its car inspection system helps prevent automobile accidents.

Car accidents resulting from poor auto maintenance account for 0.035 percent of the total accidents in Japan. The figure in the U.S., which has no mandatory inspection system, is 0.5 to 3.5 percent, Hashimoto said.

"The accident rate gap clearly has some significance," he said.

Hashimoto said the framework talks on auto trade are in "parallel" between Japan and the U.S. but both parties are still in accord on the need to avoid "collision."

"That's why I will fly to Washington again," he said. "Kantor accepted my proposal for further discussion, saying the visit would be useful (in breaking the deadlock).

"As long as chances (for settlement) exist, I will do my best," Hashimoto said, brushing aside the claim that Hashimoto is going to Washington just to appear "serious" until the very end of the framework talks.

The trade minister said he will renew Japan's basic trade position when he meets with Kantor Friday.

Four principles that "Japan will stick to until the final end of talks" are that Japan could not promise things beyond government controls, numerical targets should not be introduced, mutually agreed things should be equally applied to third countries on a most-favored-nation basis and concession should be both ways, Hashimoto said.

"We cannot accept something like Super 301. But if actual effects result from possible sanctions, Japan would take internationally due steps," he said.

"Japan and the U.S. should act in a manner that would not lead to mutual unhappiness," Hashimoto said.

Hashimoto Heads to U.S.

OW3009113194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1110 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 30 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto left Friday night for Washington for talks with U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor in an eleventh-hour bid to break an impasse in the stalled framework talks.

Hashimoto, who returned home Thursday after failing to reach agreement in talks with Kantor in Washington on Tuesday and Wednesday, is scheduled to meet Kantor at 8 P.M. Friday, the U.S. set-deadline for possible trade sanctions.

The United States has threatened to take sanctions if no agreement is reached on Japanese Government procurement practices regarding telecommunications and medical equipment by Sept. 30.

Friday is also the deadline for the U.S. to cite unfair trade partners under the Super 301 clause, a legislative trade retaliation procedure that could initiate negotiations under a sanctions threat.

Government procurement practices, insurance and auto and auto parts trade are three areas given priority in the long-stalled framework talks.

Hashimoto is in charge of negotiations on autos and auto parts and flat glass, which is also an area covered in the framework talks, though not a priority area.

Autos and auto parts are likely candidates for Super 301 citation if no agreement is reached.

Preparing for Possible Sanction

OW3009013394 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 29 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 9

[Text] The United States, with regard to the stalled Japan- U.S. economic framework talks, will decide which trade areas to impose sanctions based on the Super 301 provision of the U.S. trade act (which imposes sanctions on countries guilty of unfair trade practices) by the end of this month. Facing this fact, the Japanese Government on 28 September started to work out a report to indicate its opinion on how this provision runs counter to the spirit of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which is to be inaugurated next year.

If the United States specifies sanction areas at the end of this month, Japan plans to officially release its counterargument. For example, should the United States impose sanctions one year later, Japan would not flinch from filing a case with the WTO.

The Japanese Government, in its argument, intends to emphasize that the U.S. stand, which forces Japan to make compromises by hinting at unilateral sanctions at the bilateral talks, runs counter to the spirit of the WTO, which gives greater importance to multilateral negotiations.

Kamei 'Shruggs Off' Demand

OW3009051194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0455 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 30 KYODO—Transport Minister Shizuka Kamei Friday [30 September] shrugged off a U.S. demand that regulation on auto parts be relaxed, pointing to possible safety problems.

"Even in the United States, states which regulate auto parts properly have a low rate of accidents related to poorly serviced autos," Kamei told a press conference.

Trade in autos and auto parts is one of the three areas given priority in the contentious "framework" trade talks between Tokyo and Washington.

Asked to comment on prospects for the framework talks, Kamei said the talks must be brought to a successful conclusion, but acknowledged that they are in a critical stage.

Apart from auto and auto parts trade, insurance and government procurement of telecommunications and medical equipment are also covered by the framework talks.

The United States has threatened to impose sanctions against Japan if no agreement is reached on government procurement practices by Friday, which is also the U.S.-set deadline to cite unfair trade partners under the Super 301 clause, a unilateral legislation that could initiate negotiations under a sanctions threat.

U.S. Asked To End Talks

OW3009035294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0325 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 30 KYODO—Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura said Friday [30 September] Japan has asked the United States to conclude insurance talks within the day even as a partial agreement of ongoing bilateral trade "framework" negotiations.

Takemura told reporters that Japan's intention is to make an agreement first on Japan's insurance market, one of three priority areas under the framework talks, separating from the two other priority fields—government procurement and autos and auto parts.

"We understand the insurance talks have come close to a final stage," Takemura said.

Washington has set Sept. 30 as a deadline for deciding whether to put Japan on a hit-list under the "Super 301" provision of a 1988 trade act, in retaliation for "unfair" trade practices in auto and insurance areas.

While stressing the government will continue doing the [its] best by the deadline, Takemura said he has yet to see results.

Turning to foreign exchange rates, Takemura suggested Japan will not necessarily call for a weaker yen at Saturday's meeting of finance officials from the Group of Seven (G-7) major nations.

"I want to discuss the issue, focusing on the stability of exchange rates," Takemura said.

Reiterating the agreement in the July G-7 summit in Naples, Takemura said, "rapid fluctuations are not desirable and currency rates should reflect macroeconomic fundamentals."

Tokyo Concerned About Antidumping Draft Bills

OW3009023094 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 29 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 5

[Text] In connection with the U.S. Government's draft bills regarding implementation of accords concluded at GATT's Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, which were submitted to Congress on 27 September, the Japanese Government has shown concerns that "there are problems in that, among other things, the bills may include stronger antidumping measures" (as stated by a source at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry). Concerning the fact that the Super 301 provision (regarding determining and imposing punitive measures against unfair trading partners and trade practices) of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act has been included in the draft bills, the Japanese Government has remained calm, considering that it is "no different in substance from the current provision that has been reactivated through a Presidential decree."

Regarding the antidumping measures, Japanese industries, including the steel and electric industries, are questioning topics that are not included in the antidumping accord concluded at the Uruguay Round talks. Among these are the following: 1) measures to prevent "roundabout" exports to evade antidumping duties; and 2) calculation methods to make local production in the United States appear small. Japanese industries are concerned that the United States may use these topics to its advantage and "is bound to abuse dumping suits" (as stated by an official at a major electronic firm).

U.S. Government Divided Over Trade Talks

OW3009095494 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 28 Sep 94 Evening Edition p 1

[Article by correspondent Seiji Yajima: "Hawk's Group and Dove's Group—Pry Open the Closed Market"]

[Text] Washington, 27 Sep—Should the United States slap trade sanctions against Japan or not?...[ellipses as received] On the eve of 30 September, a virtual deadline imposed by the United States for possible trade sanctions against Japan with respect to the Japan-U.S. Economic Framework Talks, confrontation is under way within the Clinton administration between a "hawk's group" and a "dove's group." While the hawk's group is ruling out any compromise with Japan and advocating imposition of trade sanctions if no accords are reached in the framework talks, the dove's group is asserting that the United States should refrain from imposing trade sanctions by seeking a set of accords one way or another in the framework talks. Whatever option the United States chooses, it will have a great impact on foreign exchange, the financial markets, and the midterm elections. President Clinton is faced with a very hard choice.

The hawk's group is led by U.S. Trade Representative [USTR] Mickey Kantor who is the American official in charge of the Japan- U.S. Economic Framework Talks. He has to go along with Congress on everything because the USTR Office is an administrative organization created by the U.S. Congress. Representative Kantor has publicly stated that his obligation as USTR is to "pry open the Japanese market that is the most closed in the world." Commerce Secretary Brown and Representative Kantor take nearly the same position.

The dove's group is led by Treasury Secretary Bentsen. What he fears most is a chain reaction created by the breakdown of the framework talks that could cause a sharp fall in the dollar's value against other major currencies, a resurgence of inflation, a clash on the bond markets, dumping of U.S. bonds by foreign investors, and an increase in long-term interest rates. Bentsen issued a statement welcoming a package of deregulatory measures approved by the Japanese Finance Ministry in financial services. He also issued a statement applauding the decision by the Murayama government to cut taxes for three years prior to raising taxes. His statements are an expression of his expectations of Japan.

Robert Rubin, assistant to the president (in charge of the National Economic Council), who formerly worked on Wall Street, is concerned that the breakdown of the framework talks could have an adverse impact on the financial markets. Laura Tyson, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, is also concerned that the breakdown will fuel inflation and raise interest rates. They are believed to belong to the dove's group.

There is an argument that if the United States applies the Super 301 Provision to Japan, it will heighten criticism against President Clinton at the summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) scheduled to be held in November; and will have a grave impact on U.S. policy toward the Asia-Pacific region, to which the Clinton administration attaches great importance.

With the midterm elections scheduled to be held in November (one- third of seats in the Senate and all seats in the House of Representatives are up for reelection), Congressmen—who have export industries in their constituencies—are increasingly irritated that the framework talks have failed to hammer out any accord over the past one and a half years. They are increasingly putting pressure on the Clinton administration to break off the framework talks rather than seek a set of accords with Japan through concessions, and to slap trade sanctions on Japan under the 1988 Omnibus Trade Act and force it to open its market. They are pressuring the Clinton administration, claiming that if it makes improper concessions to Japan, they will oppose bills on the enforcement of domestic laws—a necessary step to ratify a set of Uruguay Round accords.

Meanwhile, any failure in the trade talks with Japan could lead to a loss of points for Representative Kantor and President Clinton, and a loss for President Clinton's prestige. Therefore, there is an argument within the administration that the failure of trade talks with Japan could put the Democratic Party in a disadvantageous position in the midterm elections.

President Clinton took the toughest stance on Japan and chose to break off the framework talks at the Japan-U.S. summit talks held in February this year. Now, however, circumstances surrounding the President are totally different.

If the framework talks are broken off again, the impact is unfathomable. It seems that President Clinton will continue to be gripped by perplexities in the future.

MITI To Investigate Japan's Trade Barriers

OW2909123394 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 28 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 10

[Text] The Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] has firmed up its plan to conduct via the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) full-fledged investigation into factors barring imports into Japan, starting in fiscal year 1995. Subject to the investigation will be about 10 items, including finished and intermediate products, the import of which has not increased due to, among other factors, a gap in prices at home and abroad. The investigation will go as far as to analyze factors barring imports, including clarifying whether there are any problems with Japanese regulations and trade practices.

The planned course of action includes the following: 1) to hear opinions from JETRO's experts who have spent many years in various countries in the world looking into potentially marketable products for possible export to Japan; 2) to investigate via JETRO's foreign trade practices in various countries and compare them with Japanese practices; and 3) to hear opinions from officials at foreign firms in Japan regarding Japanese trade practices and regulations that are hampering import expansion.

Results of the investigation will be examined by a committee on studying factors barring imports. This committee will consist of representatives from MITI, JETRO, business organizations, and other groups. If the committee finds it necessary, the government will give out instructions for improvement and corrections.

Tokyo To Recognize Palau's Independence 1 Oct

OW3009044694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0406 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 30 KYODO—The government will recognize the independence of Palau from the United States on Saturday [1 October] by sending Seishiro Eto, a Liberal Democratic Party member of the House of Representatives, to attend an Independence Day ceremony in the capital of Koror, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Palau is an island republic in the Pacific Ocean near the western end of the Caroline Islands. The 200 islands comprise 508 square kilometers and have a population of just over 15,000 people.

The country was occupied by Japan during World War II, but became a U.S. trust territory under a United Nations agreement in 1947.

Last November, voters in Palau approved a bill called the compact of free association which ended the 46-year U.S. trusteeship but gave U.S. Forces access to the territory, including nuclear-powered and nuclear weapons-armed ships and aircraft.

The bill was debated for 12 years and rejected in seven plebiscites since 1983 before finally passing.

Nuclear testing, storage and disposal remain banned under the 1979 Constitution.

New Directions in Ties With U.S. Discussed

942A0624A Tokyo USHIO in Japanese Sep 94 pp 132-141

[Discussion by Akira Irie, Harvard University professor, and Nagayo Honma, Tokyo University professor emeritus; place and date not given: "'Cultural Community'—New Viewpoint on Japan-U.S. Relations"]

[Text] **Phases in 50 Years of Japan-U.S. Relations**

[Irie] We are addressing the 50 years of the postwar period, but in May, I participated in the 50th anniversary of the Dumbarton Oaks conference. In 1944, the Allied nations, consisting of the United States, Britain, China, and the Soviet Union, gathered at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington and discussed the establishment of the United Nations. At that time, there was a strong tendency to prefer the major power approach calling for the four major nations to preserve world peace and to operate the United Nations with the Security Council playing a key role because the League of Nations had failed in its military role. However, when the United Nations was actually launched during the San Francisco Conference in June 1945, the foregoing approach met with fierce opposition from small and medium nations and a committee on economic and social affairs was established because it was determined that a security committee by itself would not be acceptable. Additionally, UNESCO was established because of the need for cultural interchange.

I feel that a foundation dealing with security, economic-social affairs, and culture are critical to international order, and these considerations manifested themselves in the formation of the United Nations.

[Honma] Indeed. These three issues are are suggestive of the profound ties in Japan-U.S. relations.

In conducting a discussion of these issues, I would first like to discuss the phases of the past 50 years.

I feel that the establishment of the 1955 system in 1955 and its recent collapse mark one milestone.

[Irie] Another approach could be that the San Francisco Peace Treaty or Peace Treaty with Japan became effective and ended the occupation in 1952. We could consider the seven years ending in 1952 as Phase I.

[Honma] We are speaking of the occupation and reconstruction period. And then we can address the 1970's, that is, the 1971 Nixon Shock or the 1972 Nixon visit to China, as marking the next milestone.

[Irie] They would mark Phase II. And, the subsequent period ending in 1989 to mark the end to the cold war can be considered Phase III.

[Honma] That sounds reasonable. We are now in the next phase which is plagued by confusion and is still not amenable to characterization, but there is no denying that the end of the cold war has had a major impact on Japan-U.S. relations.

Looking back, the establishment of the 1955 system provided Japanese domestic politics a kind of stability. The Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] served as the ruling party and the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] remained the perennial opposition party, but the SDPJ controlled one-third of the Diet seats and would not allow a revision of the Constitution. The next prime minister could always be predicted on the basis of the strength of the various factions. This situation was very beneficial in that it enabled the government to devote its energies to economic affairs.

One factor that needs to be kept in mind is that in 1950, five years before the establishment of the 1955 system, a major war, the Korean war, broke out in a neighboring nation. We need not mention the fact that many people were killed in the two nations located on the Korean peninsula. Additionally, many U.S. military personnel were also killed. I wonder if the Japanese public really felt the tensions prevailing during that war. This may be a reckless characterization of the war, but the atmosphere lacked any sense of war tensions and the prevailing sentiment was that the special procurement actions funneled to Japan could be used to resuscitate the suffering Japanese economy.

[Irie] Nominally, the Korean war was marked by UN intervention. The United States presented the problem to the United Nations and while Soviet boycott of the Security Council enabled the labeling of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) as an aggressor nation and subsequent intervention by China resulted in similar labeling of that nation as an aggressor nation.

An important point is that the peace treaty's preamble states that the treaty is premised on Japan's membership in the United Nations. This is a case where Japan has read the UN Charter and has agreed to join the United Nations because it agrees with the spirit of the United Nations.

On the other hand, Article 43 of the UN Charter promises that all member nations will allow the Security Council to use their military forces when necessary to maintain international peace and security. This provision probably refers to military units that equate to the current PKO [peacekeeping operations] activities. This would mean that Japan had the obligation to furnish military forces in support of the Korean war.

However, when the Korean war broke out in 1950, Japan was occupied and armistice talks had been initiated before the peace treaty went into effect in 1952, enabling Japan to avoid such action, but the absence of such need has led to the omission of any public debate on the issue since Japan joined the United Nations in 1956 and even to this day.

[Honma] The same can be said about the Self-Defense Forces [SDF].

Japan Failed To Understand the Significance of the Nixon Shock

[Honma] Japan assumed the attitude that it would relegate defense matters to obscurity and dedicate itself to development of the economy, but initially we had difficulty even in restoring the country to prewar living standards. In prewar days, the poor led extremely destitute lives and the middle class enjoyed a living standard that approximated the definition for that class.

There was a time during my days as a foreign student in the United States when I served as an interpreter on a part-time basis for small and medium Japanese companies engaged in commercial negotiations, and I thought of truly basic ideas such as obtaining a technical license to manufacture certain items or to make labels for shirts in Japan for export to the United States. There was a time during the 1950's when I speculated over such ideas.

Those were the days when the United States was brimming with vitality, and, when Japan first produced transistor radios, it spoke admiringly of Japan's new capability to produce such precision products as opposed to cheap, fragile items such as Christmas tree decorations.

[Irie] The 1960 revision of the security treaty reconfirmed the military security arrangements between Japan and the United States. The United States clearly committed itself to protecting Japan. That arrangement eliminated the need for Japan to make increasing outlays to strengthen its military capabilities. Military expenditures could be limited to within 1 percent of GNP and the remaining resources could be dedicated to the economy and doubling of personal incomes as advocated by Ikeda.

[Honma] Phase II was a high-growth period for Japan and at certain points in that phase it even achieved growth considered to be of miraculous proportions. Such growth progressed in a way that was beneficial to Japan and in a way which was thought not to be inimical for the world.

[Irie] When Nixon became president in 1969, the United States took action to end the Vietnam war. The 1969 Guam Doctrine renounced war in Asia. That was followed by rapprochement with China and then with the Soviet Union.

[Honma] We are speaking of detente.

[Irie] Yes. The first Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT-I) negotiations took place from 1969 to 1972. The foremost issue pending in international affairs in the 1950's and the 1960's concerned the maintenance of international order in a military sense in relation to the Soviet Union and China, but once that issue was resolved, global society was influenced predominantly by economic affairs.

At that point, Japan had completed Phase I, which concerned economic growth, and had established competitive strength. If we were to be detached and objective about the situation, we would have to say that Japan was endowed with a very fortunate set of circumstances.

[Honma] That is certainly the case. Japan in effect was a beneficiary of the balance of fear dominating the cold war period.

[Irie] That sentiment was voiced frequently in the United States around 1989; i.e., that Japan was the ultimate winner in the cold war.

[Honma] Of the series of U.S. presidents in the postwar era, Nixon is the only one who carries the suffix "shock." However, there is some doubt as to whether Japan accurately comprehended the profound effects of the Nixon shock.

It was during those years that the U.S. leadership role in global affairs changed. I believe that change and the frequent conduct of summits of advanced industrialized nations were interrelated. And, then, renewed relations were opened between the United States and China. As a result, Japan rushed to resume relations with China, but in the absence of the opportunity to hone its global sensitivities in the period following defeat, Japan may have been oblivious to the significance of such diplomatic developments.

In any event, as you have stated, Phase III covering the 1970's and 1980's witnessed the priority treatment of economic friction in Japan-U.S. relations. A decisive move in that direction was triggered, I believe, in 1985 in connection with THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE headliner article by Theodore White titled, "Threat From Japan," and continues to this day.

Both Japanese and U.S. Societies Have Changed

[Irie] I believe that economic friction is a truly intractable issue. Economics is fundamentally an issue of personal consumption; i.e., an issue of what individuals will buy and an issue of what to make in response to such purchases. Since both Japan and the United States maintain free economies with at least the freedom of individual choice, the government is not in the position to direct the purchase of certain items in specified quantities, while the availability of low-cost, good-quality goods from the United States translates into increased purchases by the Japanese consumer. Such developments provide a balanced situation from a long-term perspective. This is why we must strive for stable Japan-U.S. relations in areas not concerned with the merits of economic issues.

[Honma] Yes, you are right.

[Irie] Such stable relations exist between the United States and European nations, such as Britain and Germany. In the absence of such relationships based on value concepts or relationships based on cultural affairs, any eruption of economic friction is automatically construed as the entire spectrum of Japan-U.S. relations.

However, relative to such economic friction, Hosokawa created some controversy by becoming the first Japanese to say "No" to the United States. However, the United States for some strange reason had become an admirer of Prime Minister Hosokawa and was not deeply offended by his response. The U.S. Government and media had reached the conclusion that the problem with Japan was the image of an "iron triangle" composed of politicians or the LDP, bureaucrats, and the business world. They applauded and cheered the collapse of the LDP administration. Moreover, Hosokawa wore a muffler around his neck and portrayed a bit of stylishness which was absent with past Japanese prime ministers. However, the portrayal of such an image was far removed from anything to do with cultural relationships with the United States.

[Honma] At that time, it was said that Japan-U.S. relations had reached a mature or adult stage, but I felt that was an inept expression. The reason is that that statement prompted the question of what type of relation had existed prior to that point in time. However, there is no questioning that a change has taken place in Japanese politics. However, prior to that change, Japanese society has been undergoing changes for the past 50 years. I would like to make sure that the United States becomes aware of this fact.

First, the equalization of income levels has progressed with intense momentum. The nobility and their court titles have been abolished and the wealthy are not necessarily nonexistent, but are limited in numbers. Moreover, any existing wealth is forfeited over two to three generations because of inheritance taxes. Society has reached the stage where it is impossible to tell if the man on the street is a member of the upper class, the middle class, or the lower class.

Additionally, postwar Japanese society has been extensively influenced by U.S. culture. Those influences have not been limited to the fact that many people visit Tokyo Disneyland (laugh). We have aggressively and extensively adopted U.S. academic and research techniques and pursued the same approach in the areas of business practices and popular cultural interests. Japanese who have not seen an American movie are few and far between.

[Irie] There is no question that Japanese society has changed radically because of the American influence, but the United States too has changed. Some of those changes in the United States were the result of Japanese and Asian influences after 1970. The Asian presence in the U.S. population has grown from a mere 1 percent to a current 3 percent. It should grow to 5 percent before long. Those new arrivals advance into a variety of professions. Harvard University has had a substantial increase in Asian student enrollment.

Also, Japanese language courses are being offered not only in colleges but high schools as well. Even some elementary schools teach Japanese. Then, speaking of Japanese food, even small towns have sushi bars. And the popularity of judo and aikido is spreading rapidly.

Thus, in reality, Japan-U.S. cultural ties and social changes are taking place with a strong mutual impact.

A New Definition for the Japan-U.S. Security System

[Irie] However, an item of concern is that in both the United States and Japan, there is a rising trend towards nationalism or ultranationalism.

On the U.S. side, you could see such a manifestation in its response to the North Korean nuclear issue, while the entire nation in June commemorated the anniversary of the Normandy landing operations with much fanfare. At the Harvard University commencement exercises in June, Vice President Gore voiced regret about the anti-establishment actions of his contemporaries during the graduation ceremonies 25 years ago when student movements were at their height and made a speech praising the greatness of the United States 50 years ago, earning the applause of veterans of World War II.

Also, there is a popular American expression called recentering. Fearing that a relentless advance in its current thrust may result in a further disintegration of U.S. society, Clinton took the initiative in launching a recentering of U.S. politics under which the right wing of the Democratic Party and the left wing of the Republican Party would join hands to form a new middle-of-the-road approach. The government has already implemented income tax reform and is now working on a reform of the health care system. The idea is to build a unified society encompassing the bottom rung of society, with any such effort becoming the focus of national interests. There is no way of avoiding a welfare system for the sake of the United States.

[Honma] On the other hand, multiethnic cultures have gained substantial prominence in U.S. society. When I first involved myself in the study of U.S. history, I was taught the degree to which it had unified into one nation despite being a country of immigrants. Oneness in tems of unity evolving from the majority is the principle that was stressed. Today, emphasis is being placed on the depth of the diversity. Concurrently, there is a movement to seek a new unity, a middle-of-the road approach.

I think we can say the same for Japan-U.S. relations. I believe there will be a near-term continuation of the situation in which the inconsistent forces of unification and dispersion function concurrently.

We must consider such complex factors in maintaining Japan-U.S. relations. Such relationships assumed a simple and clear-cut approach during the cold war era. The memory of such times now stirs a degree of nostalgia, but there is no way we can return to those days, and the forced establishment of the simple and clear-cut can be dangerous in a sense.

[Irie] Yes, you are right.

[Honma] A system that sustains Japan-U.S. relations is the military security system. Some sources argue that the military security system is no longer essential in the absence of a theoretical enemy, but if we were to take action consistent with such arguments at a time when Japan-U.S. economic friction is occurring in such serious proportions, it may lead to intense confusion. Eventually, the significance of Japan-U.S. relations based on the security treaty will probably change. However, I feel that even in terms of a new definition for Japan-U.S. relations the security system should be retained.

For one thing, I feel Japan and the United States should collaborate in assuming responsibility for stabilizing the post-cold war global society with the Asia-Pacific region playing a central role.

Second, Charles Meyer states that capitalism, which triumphed in the cold war, now faces a moral crisis, while both Japan and the United States have developed extremely severe distrust in politics. There is no doubt that increasing distrust of politics in a democracy constitutes a moral crisis. In fact it is cynicism. The invasion of society by cynicism represents a virus.

This is why I feel Japan and the United States should collaborate in a serious effort to redefine 21st-century democratic government.

Further, on the issue of sustaining the environment and the earth, if events continue as they are today, it will become a genuine case of mankind destroying earth. Mankind evolved through science and technology. But now those forces are having a negative impact. However, I believe we have no choice but to solve such problems through the further development of science and technology. We should also seriously study methods and means of employing Japan and U.S. science and technology in pursuit of those goals.

I believe that Prime Minister Murayama's statement that he will preserve the Japan-U.S. security system was good in the context of our discussion today.

Interchange at the Private-Sector Level Transcending International Confrontation Is Important

[Irie] I often wonder about the significance of the country as a unit, in view of the existence of numerous multinational corporations and the inflow of foreign workers.

[Honma] You have a point there. Issues of the nature you just mentioned cannot be resolved through neo-ultranationalistic ideas.

[Irie] If we address such issues on a nation-to-nation basis it means nothing. Although an extreme approach, we need to think in terms of the world as a whole.

[Honma] That is, we need to think in terms of humanity as a unit.

[Irie] Another approach might be to adopt the European method of grouping several nations, eliminating national borders, and then cooperating on an international basis. I believe that should be the approach of the future.

In other words, we are speaking of regions such as Asia and Europe existing at a level which lies between the global approach and the individual country approach. I believe there is a need to skilfully link global and regional concerns.

[Honma] Yes, you are thinking of a logical approach. In that sense, postwar Japan seems to have forgotten about Asia. Contacts with Asian nations took place in the way of ODA [official development assistance, but academic coverage of the region in schools and universities lagged in an extreme way. I think we need to give increased and more complete coverage of such academic topics in the future.

[Irie] Although joint or community efforts are reminiscent one of wartime efforts, Japan and the United States need to exert joint or community efforts in the area of cultural pursuits. We need to use such an approach to cultivate a gradually growing common perception of worldly concerns.

In that sense, I believe it will become important to deepen ties between individuals of the private sector, that is individuals outside government and outside national authority. I believe that rapid growth in such trends will provide for the direction to be assumed by humanity as a whole, even if inter-government confrontations continue to persist.

I visited the Hebrew University in Israel in June, where the PLO and Israeli academic and cultural forum has for two to three years engaged in talks not only to establish more amicable relations but in a serious search for ways to reconcile and bring peace to the area. It was because of such efforts that the Arafat and Israeli governments have been able to reach an agreement in recent weeks. I was greatly impressed and encouraged after being briefed on those developments.

U.S. cultural historians have recently used the term "borderland." This term addresses the contact point for American and foreign cultures, but such zones are growing relentlessly. I believe this gives cause for much hope. American frontiers grew unceasingly until the Kennedy days. For those actively engaged in the growth of frontiers, it was a good thing, but was unbearable for those affected by the growth. In fact, the growth was troubling. Rather, foreign nations have cultures which they prefer to protect and the Americans have their form of culture. We need to approach each other, interact, and then form a new culture.

I believe, such movements will serve towards the building of a new Japan-U.S. relationship.

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Kono, Kozyrev Agree to Bilateral Talks in Nov

OW3009033994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0319 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] New York, Sept. 29 KYODO--Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev agreed Thursday [29 September] to a renewed round of bilateral talks in an effort to improve relations, Japanese officials said.

Bilateral talks have been on hold since President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan last October, partly because of political upheavals in Japan.

Kono and Kozyrev, who met for 45 minutes at the United Nations headquarters building in New York, agreed that Russian first deputy chairman Oleg Soskovets will visit Japan in late November, the officials said.

Soskovets is responsible for Russia's investment policies and defense industry.

The two foreign ministers also agreed Kozyrev should visit Japan in December or January and that a fourth round of working-level talks on a Russo-Japanese peace treaty should be held in Tokyo from Dec. 1, the officials said.

The two countries still have not concluded a peace treaty because of a territorial dispute over four islands off northeast Hokkaido that the former Soviet Union seized at the end of the war. The islands are known in Japan as "the northern territories [Kurils]."

Kono and Kozyrev also agreed that the two sides would continue their expert-level talks on security in waters around the disputed islands.

The Russian Coast Guard recently fired on several Japanese fishing vessels, accusing Japanese fishermen of poaching in Russian waters.

The officials said Kozyrev acknowledged bilateral relations need to be improved and that discussion about the territorial issue is "necessary."

"We are looking at what resources there are for a resolution of the problems," the officials quoted Kono as saying.

Kono has been in the U.S. since Sept. 21 for talks with U.S. leaders in Washington and to attend the UN General Assembly in New York.

Tokyo 'Has Not Set 1995' as Goal for UNSC Seat

OW2909120694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1006 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] New York, Sept. 28 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono said Wednesday [28 September] that Japan has not set 1995 as a goal for gaining a permanent seat on the UN Security Council [UNSC].

Kono voiced the view in an interview with several major U.S. and European newspapers one day after he told the UN General Assembly that Japan is ready to fulfill responsibilities as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Kono said, "1995 is one of the goals but Japan does not perceive the year as the deadline by which (the United Nations) must draw up its conclusions on reform" of the powerful panel.

Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the UN founding and members have been debating a proposal to expand the council.

Kono called for the international community to "deepen the discussions" on whether to give veto powers to newly added permanent members. Japan and Germany are bidding for a permanent seat on the Security Council.

Kono suggested that Japan is qualified for the seat because it has the financial resources and other capabilities to contribute to a wide range of UN duties.

"The present United Nations faces the international community's expectations to resolve such wide-ranging issues as population, environment, refugees, disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation, so any new permanent Security Council member should be one with the capabilities to contribute to these duties," he said.

He said that Japan has contributed personnel to peacekeeping operations in Cambodia and Mozambique and is now sending a contingent to aid Rwandan refugees.

"Japan recognizes the fact that it would face many duties in various types of activities designed to keep true peace" if it were given permanent membership, Kono said.

Articles on Tokyo Bid for Permanent UNSC Seat

TOKYO SHIMBUN Comments

OW2909122994 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 21 Sep 94 Morning Edition pp 10, 15

[Unattributed article: "Consensus Obtained From People and Asian Nations? Will Japan's Bid Just Strengthen U.S. Influence in the UNSC?"; the first paragraph is introduction]

[Excerpts] Yohei Kono, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will indicate Japan's intention for the first time to obtain a permanent seat on the UN Security Council [UNSC] at a 27 September UN General Assembly [UNGA] session. It seems that underlying the government's final decision to seek a permanent seat, in spite of the Murayama government's previous cautious approach, is the Foreign Ministry's eagerness to abandon one-state pacifism, make greater international contributions, and become a "political superpower" by getting a permanent seat. However, what is waiting for Japan after getting a permanent UNSC seat? There are still pros and cons regarding the matter. This report will reexamine the propriety of Japan's bid to win a permanent seat.

At a news conference held on the afternoon of 20 September, Foreign Minister Kono disclosed what was discussed and opinions raised by some ministers at a meeting of Cabinet members, quoting them as saying "we should continue to make efforts to seek neighboring nations' understanding," "why don't we ask neighboring nations to understand the spirit of the (pacifist) constitution" and "we should increase our voice calling for disarmament." At the news conference, the following questions and answers were exchanged:

[Reporter] What made the Murayama government decide to seek a permanent seat on the UNSC in spite of its cautious stand indicated when it was inaugurated?

[Kono] In his policy speech, the prime minister said: "Japan needs to tackle this issue on the basis of the support of its Asian neighbors and the understanding of the Japanese people." After that, the issue of reforming the United Nations was often taken up by mass media, such as press, TV, and radio, consequently deepening the people's understanding. Seeing results of the prime minister's recent Asian visit and through my visits to foreign nations, I strongly felt both directly and indirectly the international community's strong expectations of Japan. So, my speech to the forthcoming UNGA session is to indicate, with foreign nations' positions in mind, Japan's stand to seek the international community's further understanding of Japan's Constitution.

Few Voices Saying "Absolutely No!"

[Reporter] You said that "through the media," the people understand the government's position. However, this does not mean that a national consensus has been found. Don't you think?

[Kono] With what can we measure the people's views? We do not have a national referendum system. Public polls taken by the mass media is one reference, and opinions of Dietmen representing people are another. Judging from the overall situation, I think (people's) understanding has been deepened when compared with that of two or three months ago. I think there are few people saying "absolutely no!" to Japan's bid to seek a permanent UNSC seat. [ends Kono's remarks]

However, we wonder why the government is in such a hurry to seek permanent membership.

The Foreign Ministry says, "a working panel has been set up within the United Nations and discussions are under way on how to reform the UNSC," saying now is a good time to obtain a permanent seat on the UNSC. In July last year, based on a resolution adopted at the UNGA session, each nation was asked to express its views concerning UN functions. The then Miyazawa government submitted a written opinion saying "Japan is ready to carry out what it can in the UNSC." In this connection, the Foreign Ministry says: "The succeeding governments retained the opinion expressed by the Miyazawa government, and the Murayama government maintains the same stand."

Right To Have a Voice in Disarmament, PKO

The Foreign Ministry stresses the merits of becoming a permanent member nation of the UNSC, saying: "If Japan obtains permanent membership, it will be allowed to have a voice. All of the present permanent members are nuclear-armed nations, and they are the top five in arms exports. Japan can present its own opinion as a non- nuclear-armed nation and non-arms exporter." The ministry goes on to say: "Once we get a permanent seat, we can take part in working out a UN resolution, and therefore, even on the issue of peacekeeping operations [PKO], we can present our opinion." Japan's UN share is $127 million this year, which is the second largest following the United States and accounts for 12.45 percent of the total. It is expected to increase to 15.65

in fiscal 1997. With this in mind, the Foreign Ministry says: "So far, we could not present our opinion in spite of the greater financial contribution, but if we get a permanent seat, we want to have the government's opinions reflected in UN resolutions," thus showing eagerness to win a permanent seat.

A government source says the purpose for seeking a permanent seat is to gather "intelligence." Stressing "(UN) functions except the UNSC hardly work," the source notes that "in the UNSC, there is very important intelligence concerning security and economic affairs." The source then says: "At the time of the Persian Gulf war, Japan failed to obtain UNSC information and disgraced itself."

However, the government has not obtained a national consensus as well as a consensus from Asian nations on its bid to seek a permanent UNSC seat. The issue was once discussed at an Upper House Audit Committee session on 16 September. Even among the dietmen who belong to the Social Democratic Party, opinions are divided; some say: "Diet debates have not been made to win people's understanding. It is questionable that Japan should give impetus to its move toward becoming a permanent member nation just with the support of some leaders of Asian nations; the others say: "It is not a problem because Japan will act within the Constitution." [passage omitted]

In the past discussions on reforming the UNSC, it was unofficially agreed that the number of permanent and nonpermanent member nations should be increased and that Japan and Germany, which have become superpowers in both political and economic terms, are qualified to seek a permanent UNSC seat. The agreement reflects logic of the superpowers.

Observers say underlying the United States'—which virtually has the United Nations under its control—support of Japan's bid to get a permanent seat is its intention to cut its UN share by having Japan bear more of the UN share.

However, other analysts say there is a more important reason: "The United States, which succeeded in giving more importance to the UNSC than the UNGA in working out UN policies, thinks Japan's acquisition of a permanent UNSC seat will not only strengthen U.S. influence in the UNSC but will also make it easier for the United States to call on Japan to play a supplementary role" (according to analyst Ichiro Kawabe).

[passage omitted]

Former Health and Welfare Minister Junichiro Koizumi, chairman of the ruling parties' committee to study the possibility of getting a permanent seat, says: "It is desirable that the government make clear that Japan cannot use armed force." At the same time, he notes: "Japan's bid to seek a permanent seat is a test to see how far the international community understands 'Japan's special circumstances' and what Japan has done in the past 50 years after the war."

SANKEI Commentator's View

OW2909122494 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 23 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 7

[Article by commentator and international consultant Yukio Okamoto: "Japan Urged To Openly Seek Permanent Seat on the UNSC"]

[Text] Japan Elected Seven Times as Nonpermanent Member of the UNSC

The debate continues to be held on the issue of Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council [UNSC].

I believe that it is natural for Japan to seek to join the UNSC as a permanent member, but I do not believe the assertion that Japan must be cautious about becoming a permanent UNSC member, is wrong. Though I myself cannot agree, Japan has consistently taken the position that it is good only if Japan provides economic aid to other nations and cooperates with other nations in tackling environmental problems and the population issue while staying aloof from global discussions on the international peace and safety even if it is seen by the international community as a nation of second-class citizens. If some argue that Japan should not join the UNSC regardless of whether its seat on the UNSC is permanent or not and should not adhere to the UN-centralism [kokurenchushinshugi], their argument could be an indication of how Japan should live in this world as a nation.

The notion that Japan cannot reject making military contributions once it becomes a permanent UNSC member, is ambiguous and carries a dual-meaning. Among other things, Japan should refuse to participate in the use of force under any circumstances, citing its constitutional restraints. Nonetheless, Japan should cooperate with UN member nations in taking compulsory measures other than the use of force. Japan clearly chose a path when it joined the United Nations in 1956. The UN Charter does not commit the United Nations to only peaceful and nonmilitary activities. Article 7 of the UN Charter calls for settling conflicts by the use of force. If Japan hates taking on obligations as required by the UN Charter, it should have chosen not to join the United Nations, like Switzerland, instead of celebrating its admission to the United Nations. In particular, Japan has so far been elected seven times as a nonpermanent member of the UNSC. No other nation has served as a nonpermanent UNSC member for 14 years. At home, the Japanese have taken this situation for granted. The government was under fire for failing to carry out proper lobbying activities when Japan was defeated by Bangladesh in the election of nonpermanent members for the UNSC. The Constitution Stands Above the UN Charter

At home, some oppose Japan gaining a permanent UNSC seat whenever others say Japan would bolster its say in the United Nations if it becomes a permanent UNSC member.

I feel keenly that those who are cautious about Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the UNSC miss two simple points.

First, UN member nations cannot be forced to act against their will and constitutions. For all nations, it is a matter of course that their constitutions stand above the UN Charter.

Second, permanent and nonpermanent UNSC member nations as well as UN member nations have the same obligations to the United Nations. There is the argument that since the permanent UNSC members become members of the UN Armed Force's Military Staff Committee, Japan's admission to the UNSC as a permanent member causes problems in relation to the Japanese Constitution. The UN Armed Force is to be created under Article 7 of the UN Charter, but it has never been created since the United Nations was founded. Even if the UN Force is created, it is good only if Japan unhesitatingly explains the pacifist ideals of the Japanese Constitution and unequivocally indicates what it can and cannot do on the Military Staff Committee. If Japan is not confident to say "no" to the United Nations on matters that conflict with its Constitution, it is better not to join the UNSC as a permanent member. Are we living in a nation without sovereignty and independence?

Some dietmen assert: Japan should not seek a permanent seat on the UNSC but become a permanent member after being asked by other nations. If Japan becomes a permanent UNSC member after being asked by other nations, it would lighten Japan's responsibilities. It seems to me that their assertion is absurd. They have been elected after running in elections and vigorously seeking votes from their constituents. At a gathering to elect PTA executives, a candidate may say, "I am not a man of great ability, but if all of you want me to become an executive, I will...." As a sovereign nation, Japan should vigorously sell its ideals and views to the world.

A dietman who is cautious about Japan seeking a permanent seat on the UNSC claims: "If Japan were a permanent member of the UNSC during the Gulf war, it might be under terrorist attacks." He is contending that Japan should not take a high status in the international community for fear of terrorism. A teacher at an elementary school may ask his pupils to "leave difficult and dangerous things to others." Japan Urged To Speak for Systems and Values of Asia

Under this situation, what disappoints me most is a politician's statement. He states: "Japan has no vision of the world and it does not know what to do as a permanent UNSC member. Therefore, Japan should not seek to be a permanent member of the UNSC." The politician is supposed to have his own vision of the world.

If I were him, I would state as follows: It is undeniable that the United Nations is under the thumb of European nations and the United States. Many Asian nations are members of the United Nations, but their interests in the United Nations are not fully guaranteed (almost no Asian nation thinks that China represents them in the United Nations). Even America, the closest partner of Asian nations, disagrees with the Asian nations on how to handle Asian affairs. In Indochina, Singapore, and on the Korean peninsula, there are the inherent interests of Asia. European nations and the United States, not Asian nations, are speaking of the need to isolate Burma. European nations and the United States have responded sternly to China's human rights policy in an unbalanced manner. If, as a permanent member of the UNSC, Japan speaks for the systems and values of Asia, it would bring a change to the world's view of Asia. I believe that Japan has many things to say in the UNSC.

Ruling Coalition Agrees on 65-Day Diet Session

OW2909131994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 29 KYODO—The ruling three-party coalition decided Thursday evening [29 September] to seek approval of a 65-day extraordinary Diet session during a plenary session of the House of Representatives on Friday, officials said.

Opposition Threatens To Boycott

OW2909160894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1512 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 29 KYODO—The new 187-member parliamentary group "Kaikaku (renovation)" threatened Thursday [29 September] to boycott Friday's House of Representatives plenary session unless the ruling coalition surrenders the chamber's vice chairmanship to the group, Kaikaku members said.

The new group, now the second largest force in the lower house, is the forerunner to a proposed unified opposition party.

At present, the vice chairmanship belongs to veteran lawmaker Hyosuke Kujiraoka of the Liberal Democratic Party, which is the largest party in the tripartite ruling coalition of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama with 201 seats.

The coalition rejected Kaikaku's demand, saying parliamentary customs dictate that both the chairman and vice chairman of the lower chamber serve out their terms until the next general election is contested.

The standoff came a day after nine main opposition forces celebrated the inauguration of the unified parliamentary group with the vow to oust the current Murayama administration.

If the opposition boycotts the plenary session, Murayama will end up delivering a policy platform speech scheduled for Friday to a chamber two-fifths empty.

As the coalition and opposition failed to strike an accord on the length of the extraordinary Diet session in the day's bargaining session, the coalition will be forced to put a motion to set the term at 65 days to a vote at Friday's plenary session, the Kaikaku members said.

The opposition has been demanding an 80-day term, saying there are many crucial bills pending, whose fate has to be decided during the upcoming Diet session.

Divided Over Diet Attendance

OW3009045494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0432 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 30 KYODO—The ruling coalition and the new 187-member parliamentary group "Kaikaku (Renovation)" remained at loggerheads on Friday [30 September] over a call to secure the group's attendance at the prime minister's address to the Diet later in the day.

The standoff is still brewing on the opening day of the 65-day extraordinary session of the Diet. Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama is to deliver a policy platform speech to the House of Representatives, starting at 2 p.m.

"Turbulence will sweep through this Diet tenure," Takashi Yonezawa, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party, told a meeting of the party's legislators.

Kaikaku, the main opposition group, renewed its threat to boycott the premier's address to the Diet, unless the ruling coalition surrenders the chamber's vice chairmanship to the group, Kaikaku members said.

The new group, now the second largest force in the lower house, is the forerunner to a proposed Unified Opposition Party.

At present, the vice chairmanship belongs to veteran lawmaker Hyosuke Kujiraoka of the Liberal Democratic Party, which is the largest party in Murayama's tripartite coalition with 201 seats.

The coalition has rejected Kaikaku's demand, saying parliamentary customs dictate that both the chairman and vice chairman of the lower chamber serve out their terms until the next general election is contested.

Unless the opposition withdraws its boycott threat, Murayama will end up delivering a policy speech to a nearly half empty chamber.

The opposition group celebrated its inauguration with a vow to strip the current coalition of its grip on power at a ceremony on Wednesday.

As the coalition and opposition again failed to strike an accord on the length of the Diet session in a morning bargaining session, the lower chamber voted to set the Diet tenure at 65 days during the plenary session, which opened shortly after noon, coalition officials said.

The opposition has been demanding an 80-day term, saying there are many crucial bills pending whose fate has to be decided during the upcoming Diet session.

Special Diet Convenes Amid Opposition Boycott

OW3009091394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0858 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 30 KYODO—After hours of eleventh-hour wrangling, the House of Representatives kicked off its plenary session Friday [30 September] with most of the largest opposition group members boycotting the session.

The ruling coalition and the opposition parliamentary group "Kaikaku (Renovation)" failed to eliminate disagreement over a call to secure the group's attendance at the prime minister's address to the Diet.

The standoff marred the opening day of the 65-day extraordinary session of the Diet as Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama was forced to deliver his speech to an almost half-empty chamber. But six of the 187 Kaikaku members attended the session.

Murayama was scheduled to deliver a policy platform speech to the lower house at 2 P.M. but finally started his address around 4:40 P.M. [0740 GMT] after more than two hours of delay.

"Turbulence will sweep through this Diet tenure," said Takashi Yonezawa, chairman of the opposition Democratic Socialist Party, at a meeting of the party's legislators earlier in the day.

Kaikaku skipped the premier's address, saying it is dissatisfied with the ruling coalition's failure to comply with a demand to surrender the chamber's vice speaker position to the group.

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The coalition has rejected Kaikaku's demand, saying parliamentary customs dictate that both the speaker and vice speaker of the lower chamber serve out their terms until the next general election is contested.

At a ceremony Wednesday, the large unified opposition group celebrated its inauguration with a vow to strip the current coalition of its grip on power.

As the coalition and opposition again failed to strike an accord on the length of the Diet session in a morning bargaining session, the lower chamber voted to set the Diet tenure at 65 days during the plenary session, coalition officials said.

However, Kaikaku's solidarity itself was marred by intragroup dissent. Defying the group's decision to boycott the premier's speech, veteran legislator Takeo Nishioka and five other dissidents attended the session to the chagrin of the new opposition group.

The opposition has been demanding an 80-day term, saying there are many crucial bills pending whose fate has to be decided during the upcoming Diet session.

Murayama's Policy Speech

OW3009081294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0802 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 30 KYODO—Japan should assume its most active role ever in securing world peace and prosperity, with next year marking the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said Friday [30 September].

Murayama, in his second major policy speech in the Diet since taking the helm of government in June, reiterated that the nation needs to squarely face up to its wartime wrongs, renew a commitment never to wage war again and strive to create durable peace and prosperity.

"I am convinced this is the starting point of Japan's foreign policy," the premier said in an address that marked the opening of the extraordinary Diet session.

As part of Japan's efforts, Murayama said his government will launch a 100 billion yen program over the next 10 years to promote peace and friendly relations with Asia.

The "peace, friendship and exchange initiative," unveiled in August, is intended to promote historical research, support researchers, and encourage dialogue and mutual understanding between Japan and its neighbors.

The 70-year-old Murayama also promised that Japan will make efforts of "good faith" to atone its wartime victimization of Asia, which included forcing women into prostitution before and during the war.

Historians say the Japanese Imperial Army recruited up to 200,000 women, mostly Koreans but also Filippinos, Indonesians, Chinese and Dutch, and sent them to frontline brothels.

Murayama, Japan's first socialist prime minister in nearly half a century, proclaimed that Japan needs to make due contributions to help achieve peaceful resolutions to global conflicts through cooperation with U.N. peacekeeping efforts and humanitarian aid.

Turning to such contributions within the framework of the United Nations, the premier expressed Japan's desire to win permanent membership on the U.N. Security Council.

"Japan is prepared, with the endorsement of many countries and deepened understanding of Japanese people, to undertake its responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council," he said.

He also spoke of the need to inform the world that Japan cannot play a combat role because Article 9 of its 1947 Constitution bans the threat of or use of force to settle international disputes.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono made similar remarks in his speech before the U.N. General Assembly in New York earlier this week in formally declaring Japan's candidacy for a permanent seat on the powerful U.N. panel.

Since the U.N. was formed in 1945, the five victors of world war II—Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States—have held permanent seats and veto powers.

In addition to the five permanent members, the council has 10 nonpermanent members rotating two-year terms granted by region.

Concerning the defense program, Murayama said Japan will maintain a minimal defense capability in line with its aspirations to promote global disarmament and become a peace-loving nation.

Murayama's Social Democratic Party, a member of the tripartite coalition government, recently reversed its long-held policy and recognized the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) as constitutional. The party had argued for years that the SDF violates the Constitution and once called for scrapping them.

Murayama also vowed to boost Tokyo's financial assistance to developing nations and countries struggling to promote a market economy.

The premier, in visits to the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore in late August, also made it clear that Tokyo places great emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region and is willing to help enhance cooperation.

He singled out bilateral relations with China and South Korea as the key to stability and prosperity in the region and voiced desire to keep close relationships with the two.

While hoping that North Korea will allay international concerns about its alleged push for nuclear weapons as soon as possible, the premier also revealed his intention to normalize relations between Tokyo and Pyongyang.

Murayama also said Japan will maintain and strengthen relations with the United States, which he described as "the most important bilateral relationship" to shape the world's peace and prosperity in the post-Cold War era.

On the domestic front, he expressed strong determination to institute wide-ranging national reforms, including political, administrative, fiscal and socioeconomic ones.

He also pointed to the need for decentralization, completion of tax system reform and a significant reduction in the nation's massive trade surplus over the medium term.

'Full Text' of Speech

OW3009092094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0904 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 30 KYODO—The following is the full text of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's policy speech in the Diet on Friday [30 September].

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress will be leaving on Oct. 2 for a visit to Europe. I sincerely hope that, after strengthening the bonds of friendship and goodwill with the countries they visit, they will return home to Japan without incident.

Introduction

It is now about three months since I took the reins of government. As I mentioned at the beginning of the previous session of the diet, I believe the historic significance of this coalition lies in advancing government through finding agreement through transparent and democratic discussion among different political forces embodying divergent values to better-reflect the popular will and that this is a structure suited to the times. Even so, it is understandable that the birth of a coalition cabinet including people from parties that had long been locked in fierce opposition might have given rise to some bewilderment in Japan and overseas. It must thus be admitted that there is an urgent need to stabilize the government and to achieve government that the people can welcome unabashedly, both to resolve the host of issues before us and to respond to the international community's heightening expectations of Japan. As such, there is a need to flesh out the specifics of policies to achieve my political ideals of creating a government that cares about people and a government that you can feel at ease with, and hence to show the people how this cabinet differs from its predecessors and to explain what changes we want to effect. It is with this in mind that the three coalition parties have held open discussions and identified the necessary reforms for each of the important issues before us. This is, I believe, a major success achieved by this coalition transcending our past within the context of the historic transition from ideological confrontation to policy debate.

However, this cabinet's real mettle has yet to be tested. Whether or not we will be able to promote further reform so as to earn the world's trust and create a society in which the people can live at ease will depend on what we do from here out. Today, when the socioeconomic systems that have sustained Japanese development since the war are less and less able to respond to the changes in Japan and elsewhere, it is clear that the areas needing reform need dramatic reform looking ahead to the 21st century. I would thus like to state my policies in response to the issues before us and to gain your understanding and cooperation so that this session of the Diet can be a major step for reform.

For Political Reform

Never before have the calls been stronger for dispelling the popular distrust of government sparked by political corruption, the collusive structure among politicians, bureaucrats, and industrialists, and other causes and creating sound party politics that can truly represent the people's interests.

I believe there are three main pillars to reforming Japanese politics.

First is altering the basic face of politics by reforming the election system and eradicating political corruption. We will submit a redistricting bill to this session of the Diet based upon the recommendations of the advisory committee on electoral districts, and it is only with the passage of this bill that this round of systemic reforms will take effect and the long-sought reforms will be in place. I very much hope you will pass this bill as soon as possible.

With the institution of public funding to the political parties, it is only natural that we should be expected to deal even more harshly with political corruption. With one eye to the consultations now taking place among the parties on further measures to prevent political corruption, the government will make wide- ranging efforts to promote political reform, including an untiring effort for cleaner politics.

Second is the promotion of decentralization. Indeed, having local residents involved in community issues and active in local politics and administration to solve their problems and creating systems in which the voice of the people is reflected in local politics is the way to ensure that true democracy takes root in Japan. Promoting decentralization in which each local region is empowered to practice responsible and distinctive administration in accord with local conditions is the current of the times, and it is imperative that we review the division of powers between the national and local governments and how their administrative systems are structured and promote such policies as transferring authority to local governments, reducing and eliminating intervention by the national government, and enhancing local fiscal resources. This government will draw up guidelines for promoting decentralization by the end of the year and intends to submit basic legislation for promoting decentralization to the Diet soon.

Third are reforms relating to the legislative and the administrative branches of government. The Diet has itself been engaged in studies of Diet reform, and it is imperative that the Diet and administration both make further efforts to invigorate parliamentary democracy so that political judgments can be made in an apt and timely manner consistent with the delineation among the three branches of government.

In implementing these reforms, nor may we forget the desirable division of roles between politics and the bureaucracy. True reform will be possible only when both sides are fully aware that politicians should provide direction and strong leadership for reform and that the bureaucracy should draw upon its expertise to faithfully flesh out these policies and both are able to work together in this.

Promoting Administrative and Fiscal Reform and Tax Reform

In promoting socioeconomic reforms, the first imperative is that the government make an effort to downsize and reform itself. Indeed, this cabinet must make every effort on the issue of administrative reform. If we are to correct the impediments posed by our overcompartmentalized bureaucracy, simplify and rationalize the bureaucracy, and improve the transparency of the government, we must, as well as promoting reforms in the administrative structure, civil service system, special public corporations, and more, also make further efforts for administrative reform including consideration of information-disclosure provisions and other changes. Of these many reforms, we intend to have the different ministries and agencies review the special public corporations under their auspices by the end of this fiscal year.

Promoting administrative reform is not only a national government issue. While it is imperative that we promote further decentralization in the relations between the national and local governments as I mentioned earlier, we must also work on the relations between the bureaucracy and the people to promote resolute deregulation, not only to improve the standard of living but also for economic revitalization and international harmonization. As part of our effort to rigorously review the justifications for regulations, domestic and foreign requests for deregulation will be compiled, a five-year deregulation action program will be formulated, and implementation will begin by the end of this fiscal year. Likewise, in an effort to encourage the prompt implementation of deregulation policies already decided upon, I would like to request the quick passage of the integrated bill on governmental approvals and registrations.

On all of these issues, the government intends, with the establishment of the commission on administrative reform, to promote reform with a more vigorous and powerful structure than ever before.

Administrative reform and fiscal reform are two inseparable issues. Given the increasing severity of our fiscal situation, including the prospect that the total value of government bonds outstanding may top 2 trillion yen, it is imperative that we work to restore fiscal soundness and to regain fiscal policy responsiveness if fiscal policy is to be able to respond appropriately to the requirements of the new era as the population ages, and I will thus work forcefully to promote fiscal reform.

Creating a vital welfare society demands that, along with making an effort to trim expenditures through further promoting administrative and fiscal reform, we also work to effect tax reform while striving to ensure that the tax burden is equitably shared. In tandem with introducing a 3.5 trillion yen individual income tax cut centering on middle-income families through such means as easing the progressivity of the tax schedule, we have thus decided to fundamentally reform the consumption tax structure by raising the consumption tax rate, now to include a new local consumption tax designed to enhance local fiscal resources, to 5 percent. We will submit the relevant legislation to this session of the Diet. Mindful of current economic conditions, however, we are also adding a 2 trillion yen special tax cut to this package to continue the total 5.5 trillion yen tax cuts and are delaying the implementation of the consumption tax reforms and the introduction of the local consumption tax until April 1997. Finally, every possible consideration will be extended so that this burden does not fall unduly on the truly needed.

For Reforming the Economic Structure

While the economy is beginning to show improvement and is gradually moving in the direction of recovery, plant and equipment investment continues sluggish overall and employment remains grim. At the same time, the yen's abrupt appreciation and other factors are also cause for concern. In order to get the economy on the road to real recovery as soon as possible, we therefore need to continue to pay close attention to trends in plant and equipment investment, employment, and small and medium enterprises. At that same time, we will continue to work to promote domestic demand-led economic management so as to achieve development in harmony with the rest of the international community and to take effective steps toward achieving, over the medium term, a highly significant decrease in our current account surplus.

Looking ahead to the 21st century, it is important that Japan respond to the times and achieve a creative socioeconomic structure imbued with vitality. Indeed, now is the time for us to embark upon structural reform so as to take advantage of the economy's potential and to revitalize our economy.

The first priority in this reform is that of thoroughly reviewing the existing regulations and private-sector practices and creating a social climate in which people are free to exercise their creativity in the hope of, for example, expanding the range of consumer choice, creating new markets, and reducing the price differentials between domestic and overseas markets.

The price differentials between domestic and overseas markets, in particular, impede popular affluence and impose higher costs on Japanese industry, and the government, along with surveying the situation and announcing its findings, will work vigorously to rectify and reduce these differentials by, for example, taking measures to eliminate the impediments that prop domestic prices up.

At the same time, along with rigorously studying and responding to each situation in line with the results of the recent review of public utility services, we will work for the fuller disclosure of all appropriate information so that there is no easy resort to public utility rate increases.

Second, it is imperative that we work for the qualitative and quantitative enhancement of the social capital infrastructure, both to prepare now, while the economy is still strong, for the full- fledged aging society and for a domestic demand-led economy in international harmony with the rest of the international community. While working to secure appropriate fiscal resources, the government is moving ahead with a prompt review of the basic plan for public investment, including reallocation of investment from the people- first and other perspectives and an increase in the amount of the total investment, and we intend to make a decision this october.

Third, with the concern expressed about hollowing-out, it is important that Japanese business be able, while sustaining employment, to open up new fields of business and to metamorphose into creative industries. Along with improving the foundations for future development such as by advancing science and technology and promoting academic progress, the government thus intends, while ensuring consistency between economic and industrial policy and employment measures, to promote integrated, comprehensive policies to facilitate industrial and employment restructuring.

It is especially important for revitalizing the economy and enhancing the people's lives that the public and private sectors work together to make information more central to more sectors of society. We recently established the advanced information and telecommunications society promotion headquarters within the cabinet, and we are determined to devise comprehensive responses to promote, among other things, international efforts such as those for the global information infrastructure, the greater use of information technology in education, medicine and welfare, and other fields, and the development of advanced information and telecommunications technologies.

Creating a Caring Society

We have worked with all our might in pursuit of affluence, yet who among us can deny that, as a result, we may have tended to err on the side of profit maximization and thinking in purely material terms? I believe the essence of creating a caring government lies in working to create a society in which each and every individual's human rights are respected and the family and community are conductive to peace of mind and warmly comfortable.

Accordingly, we are working to restructure pensions, medical care, welfare, and other social security provisions in preparation for the impending era of fewer children and more old people. Along with asking you to pass the pension reform legislation quickly so as to ensure the system's integrity, we are also moving to quickly enhance care for the aged to better-reflect the needs of community residents. Likewise, I will also work to create an environment in which children can grow up safe and sound and to facilitate greater independence and social participation for the disabled.

It is also important that we be able to pass this beautiful land we have inherited from our ancestors along to future generations in good condition. I will thus make a vigorous effort for an environmentally compatible economy reconciling the needs of environmental preservation and economic development.

Nor may we forget the issue of promoting cultural pursuits. One of the major problems facing modern society is that people have lost their sense of contentment and derive less satisfaction from their lives. It is thus imperative that the government take the people's desire to lead spiritually worthwhile lives seriously and, along with doing more to promote education and sports, make a greater effort in the spirit of respecting local autonomy to enhance the environment for promoting culture and the arts.

It has been pointed out that Japan lags behind in women's participation in policy-making and that women bear a greater burden in housekeeping chores, child-rearing, and caring for the aged. I intend to work for the creation of a society conducive to joint participation by both men and women in which both sexes take part side by side in all fields of endeavor and co-support society's development.

Caring government has to be government that puts itself in the ordinary person's shoes. This year's water shortages are but one example, and I would like to express my heartfelt sympathies to the people of the regions that were hard-hit. Wanting to learn from this experience and determined that out of sight not be out of mind, I intend to embark upon medium- to long-term policies including forestry conservation and cultivation to enhance our water resources and the comprehensive development of water resources. I assure you I will make every effort on those issues that directly impact the safety and security of everyday life.

Working as a Nation of Peace

Japanese acts of aggression and colonial rule during that period in our history not only claimed numerous victims here in Japan but also left the peoples of neighboring Asian countries and elsewhere with scars that remain even today. It is thus all the more essential in this time of peace and affluence that we reflect on the errors in our history, convey to future generations the horrors of war and the many lives that were lost, and, renewing our no-war commitment, work continuously for lasting peace. This stance must, I believe, underlie all of Japanese foreign policy.

Thus we have recently embarked upon a two-pronged peace, friendship and exchange initiative encompassing, first, the collecting and cataloging of historical documents and other support for historical research and, second, efforts to promote greater dialogue and mutual understanding through exchange programs with other countries, and it is planned to devote approximately 100 billion yen to this initiative over the next 10 years. At the same time, I also intend to make a good-faith effort to deal with the remaining issues arising from the war.

With the 50th anniversary of the war's end approaching next year, Japan must play an even wider-ranging and more active role than ever before for world peace and prosperity.

First is our cooperation for the peaceful resolution of regional conflicts, especially for peacekeeping operations, and our response to humanitarian issues such as those posed by conflict-generated refugees. In addition to what we have been attempting so for, we have recently decided to dispatch members of the Self-Defense Forces on a humanitarian international relief operation in line with the International Peace Cooperation Law to provide personnel support in Rwanda, still suffering from the aftermath of its civil war, supplementing the financial assistance and cooperation in kind which has already been provided for refugee assistance. Paying every possible heed to securing the safety of these personnel, we are making every effort to facilitate smooth operations. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the cooperation of the families waiting for their return.

Second is United Nations' role and Japan's contribution. While stating explicitly that Japan does not, nor will it, resort to the use of force as prohibited by its Constitution, I also wish to state that, with a view to ensuring global peace and stability, Japan will contribute actively in such areas as peacekeeping, disarmament, economic and social, and other fields and will at the same time work actively to reform and strengthen the functions of the United Nations and that, with the endorsement of many countries and the further understanding of the Japanese people, Japan is prepared to discharge its responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council.

Third is support for those developing countries beset by poverty and the countries working to shift to market economies. We intend to enhance our support for these countries in line with the ODA [official development assistance] charter paying all due heed to their efforts to democratize and secure human rights and freedom and to rein in their military spending.

On the increasingly serious environmental, population, drugs, AIDS, and other global issues, Japan intends, consistent with its effort to be a people-friendly, environment-friendly society, to mobilize the expertise and technologies gained from its past experience and to play an even more positive role for these problems' solution.

As regards Japan's own defense capability, taking into account the changes in the international situation since the end of the Cold War and adhering to its exclusively defense-oriented policy, Japan will keep up its efforts to have the necessary minimum defense capability consistent with Japan's hopes for global disarmament and its goal of being a nation of peace.

Ratifying the WTO Agreement and Promoting Comprehensive Agricultural Policies

The history of the last 50 years is a history of the multilateral free trading system based upon the GATT. As one of the countries that has benefited most from this system, Japan needs to continue to strengthen its efforts for the system's development. The government is submitting the WTO agreement resulting from the Uruguay Round negotiations and related legislation to this session of the Diet. I very much hope they will be approved and enacted by the end of the year with a view to the agreement's entering into force next Jan. 1.

Looking particularly a agriculture, it is imperative that we respond to the new international circumstances created by the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreement on agriculture. Along with hoping that Japanese agriculture and rural areas can seize the moment for greater self-reliance and sustained development, we must take this opportunity to promptly implement fundamental reform policies to revitalize Japanese agriculture so that agricultural producers can work with hope for the future. I am thus determined to move quickly in line with the recent report of the Agricultural Policy Council to implement a range of comprehensive policies, including the reform of the food control system, greater efficiency and stability for farm management, production infrastructure improvements and the revitalization of rural areas.

For Asia-Pacific Stability and Development

I recently visited a number of countries in Southeast Asia and held candid exchanges of views with leaders there on new modes of cooperation looking ahead to the future. There is heightened momentum promoting cooperation in various fields in the countries of Southeast Asia, and indeed the entire Asia-Pacific region including Japan, mobilizing this area's development energies and diversity. Japan intends to make every possible effort based on the idea of living together with the peoples of this region, including active participation in such dialogues as the ASEAN region forum. In the economic field, we will play a vigorous economic role in the APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] informal leaders' meeting this November and other forums for promoting open regional cooperation so that this region can be a growth center for all the world. Having enjoyed major progress in recent years, Japan-China relations and Japan-Republic of Korea relations are important for peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, and Japan continues to place a high priority on its relations with these countries.

On North Korea, closely watching the process of the U.S.-North Korea dialogue on the problem of North Korean nuclear weapons development, Japan will make the utmost effort, in close coordination with the United States, the Republic of Korea, China, and the other countries concerned for the earliest possible resolving of the remaining issues and the dispelling of the international community's concerns about the development of nuclear weapons. At the same time, Japan intends to watch North Korean moves carefully and to approach the issue of the normalization of relations.

The Japan-U.S. relationship continues to be the world's most important bilateral relationship for the building of post-Cold War world peace and prosperity. I will strive to maintain and strengthen this relationship as the cornerstone of Japanese foreign policy and will firmly maintain the Japan-U.S. Security arrangements. In the economic sphere, the two governments are currently having earnest discussions in good faith under the Japan-U.S. framework in Washington, D.C., in order to bring about a successful conclusion to the talks.

Conclusion

I recently had the opportunity to talk with Chiaki Mukai, Japan's first women astronaut. She described her feelings at liftoff not as anxiety but as relief that she was finally going to space and would finally be able to work in space. Along with being deeply impressed at her words, I found in them new resolve that, having been designated prime minister and entrusted with the helm of state, I should make every effort to attain my political ideals.

The caring government that I seek is not a government that looks for the easy way out and evades the pain of reform. Indulging other people has to mean demanding more of yourself. What we need now is government that responsibly decides on policies for all of society's constituent members and government that effects responsible policies that will proudly bear historical scrutiny. This is the kind of government that I am striving for.

In this, I ask for the understanding and cooperation of Japanese people and the members of the Diet.

SDPJ's Kubo Discusses Political Situation

OW2909124594 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 21 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with Wataru Kubo, secretary general of the ruling Social Democratic Party of Japan; place and date not given—first in series of interviews entitled: "Listening To Political Party Leaders—We Will Prepare for the Fall Battle This Way"]

[Text] With an extraordinary Diet session set to be called on 30 September, SANKEI SHIMBUN has interviewed political party leaders, following an interview with a leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], about major pressing issues, their plans to deal with those issues, the political situation, and the prospect of party realignment. SANKEI SHIMBUN interviewed Wataru Kubo, secretary general of the ruling Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], for the first installment in the interview series.

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] Ruling parties are facing difficulty mapping out a tax reform package. What is your comment?

[Kubo] What matters most is that no decision has been made on how a welfare policy should be formulated to prepare for a society of senior citizens or how the people should bear the welfare burden. My view is that the ruling parties need not decide to insert the consumption tax hike in a package of tax reform bills. Taxes have been reduced to stimulate the economy and if the consumption tax is raised, this would keep the tax cuts from generating a pump-priming effect. In the end, a political decision is required....

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] With upper house elections scheduled to be held next year, the upper house is strongly opposing any attempts to raise the consumption tax. What is your opinion?

[Kubo] Both ruling and opposition parties share common difficulties and they will be unable to clash with each other over the issue of raising the consumption tax in the elections. The people have no reason to welcome any tax hike.

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] No progress has been made in enacting a law on the relief of atomic bomb victims. What do you think?

[Kubo] For a long time, political parties, especially the SDPJ, have strongly hoped to enact the law while confronting the LDP, which has vehemently opposed the state compensating those victims. The SDPJ cannot make any concessions to the LDP. The SDPJ intends to get the law enacted in the upcoming extraordinary Diet session. Enacting the law is not an ideological issue, but an issue that must be settled clearly. The issue has been left unsettled over the past 50 years since the end of the Pacific War.

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] Now that the SDPJ has managed to hold its regular party convention, what do you think of the "coalition government formed by the LDP and the SDPJ"?

[Kubo] The present situation is very unusual. While leftists in the SDPJ are showing no allergy to the SDPJ-LDP coalition; rightists in the SDPJ, who have maintained a close relationship with the LDP, are guarding against the coalition. The LDP has three times as many seats as the SDPJ in both houses of the Diet. If the SDPJ fails to deal with things properly, our nation would be dominated by LDP politics and it would be unable to realign the established political parties in the way the people hope.

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] Will the SDPJ aim to rally social democratic and liberal forces in the future?

[Kubo] I think that to keep the LDP, an old conservative party and Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], a new conservative party, from creating a bipolar party system, the SDPJ, the Democratic Socialist Party, and social democratic and liberal forces, who intend to carry out democracy, should form a social democratic and liberal party to counter conservative forces.

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] If a tripolar party system is created, what sort of government will be formed? How about the possibility of the SDPJ forging an alliance with Shinseito to form a new-new party? Will the SDPJ maintain the present coalition with the LDP?

[Kubo] Those things will not occur. The coalition government is in a process of trial and error. A change of government occurred four times over the past year. The SDPJ was unable to form a single-party government. The SDPJ will not perpetuate the present coalition with the LDP. What is desirable is that a tripolar party system is created and political forces, who value democracy and hold the casting vote, form a coalition government while listening to the people's wishes.

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] You once said you would not work together with Shinseito Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa even if you and he go to hell.

[Kubo] For eight months in the past, the SDPJ shored up the coalition government with Shinseito, in which Ozawa presently works as an influential senior member. I broke off the relationship of trust with Ozawa shortly before the Hata Cabinet was formed, but my position at the time was not against forming the third coalition government with Shinseito. I worked to inaugurate the third non-LDP coalition government. Ozawa is still surprised at the SDPJ's ability to forge a coalition with the LDP.

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] Local SDPJ chapters appear unwilling to move toward cooperating with the LDP in the future elections, as the SDPJ headquarters hopes. What is your opinion?

[Kubo] The election is a fight among political parties. A political party can cooperate with other parties in an election only when it prepares to fight in the election. The question is the purpose of electoral cooperation. If electoral cooperation is aimed at merely increasing parliamentary seats, this would be an insult to voters.

[SANKEI SHIMBUN] You continued to state that the "SDPJ-LDP coalition" was impossible until shortly before the present coalition government was inaugurated. You were supposed to take the responsibility for making such a statement.

[Kubo] Even now, I believe that I made a correct statement at the time. I have to take the responsibility for making the statement and I am thinking of something. As secretary general of the SDPJ, I worked to have the SDPJ chairman become prime minister and there is a question of whether my resignation as secretary general can help resolve all problems. I am ready to step down at any time.

Survey on SDPJ Policy Change

OW2909122794 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 25 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] At its emergency party convention held recently, the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] changed its fundamental policies. In this regard, ASAHI SHIMBUN conducted a nationwide survey on 18 and 19 September to find out voters' responses to the change. As a result, it was learned that 57 percent of the voters "approve" and 39 percent "do not approve" of the change. In this way, many voters expressed their support for the policy change itself. However, the people have a severe view of the SDPJ. Twenty-eight percent of the respondents said that "there is no longer a reason for the party to exist." Regarding the SDPJ's future, 49 percent of the respondents think that the number of SDPJ supporters will "decrease" and only 8 percent said that it will "increase."

SDPJ's support rate during the recent survey was 16 percent. It was 15 percent when a survey was conducted in mid-July, or immediately before Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama (who is chairman of the SDPJ) announced the policy change during his response to a question at a Diet interpellation. As far as the ASAHI SHIMBUN survey is concerned, there is no clear change in the party's support rate after the policy change. Widely ranging responses approve of the policy change. Sixty-five percent of the respondents who support the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] said they "approve" the change "very much" or "to a certain degree." Some 60 percent for Sakigake, Shinseito, the Democratic Socialist Party, and Japan New party and 56 percent for the SDPJ approved. It seems that such approval rates were major causes of a favorable support rate for the Murayama administration.

However, the survey shows that women view the policy change more severely than men. More than 60 percent of women in their late 30s answered that they "do not approve."

Regarding the fact that the SDPJ changed its Self-Defense Forces [SDF] policy from "nonconstitutional" to "constitutional," 16 percent of the respondents said it was a "matter of course" and 50 percent said the party "could not help it." This shows that two out of three people approve of the SDPJ's sudden SDF policy change. As compared to this, 20 and 9 percent of the respondents respectively said that it is a "problem" and that they "cannot forgive" the party.

Of the SDPJ supporters, 59 percent of the respondents said that the party "could not help it." This is an outstanding figure. However, 14 percent said it was a "matter of course." As a whole, 73 percent of the SDPJ supporters approve the change. This is far more than the number of SDPJ supporters who are critical of the change; 22 percent of the SDPJ supporters said either it was a "problem" or they "cannot forgive" the party. Many members of the opposition parties, including former coalition parties, are rather critical of the change. Nearly 60 percent of respondents who support the Communist Party of Japan are critical of the change; it was 50 percent for Komeito and 38 percent for Shinseito.

The survey asked the respondents how they view the change in such fundamental policies. They were asked to choose an answer from six choices. The largest number, 28 percent, said "there is no longer a reason for the party to exist." Twenty-four percent and 14 percent of them chose "it is a realistic choice" and "it is a sudden policy change" respectively. Of those who do "not approve" of the policy change, 39 percent said "there is no longer a reason for the party to exist."

Nearly 70 percent of respondents who support Komeito and Shinseito think the number of SDPJ supporters will "decrease" in the future. Of the SDPJ supporters, 36 percent, 14 percent, and 44 percent respectively think it will "decrease," "increase," and "not change."

Hiroshima Court Rejects Vote Disparity Plea

OW3009063394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0559 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Hiroshima, Sept. 30 KYODO—The Hiroshima High Court on Friday [30 September] rejected a claim by a group of lawyers that the Constitution bans the 2.8-to-1 weight disparity of a vote between overrepresented and underrepresented electorates suffered by voters in a 1993 general election.

However, the court urged the Diet to amend a bill to define the boundaries of 300 single-seat constituencies for the House of Representatives to be voted on during the extraordinary Diet session, so that the maximum disparity under the single-seat system can be cut to less than 2 to 1.

The extraordinary Diet session convened Friday. The Diet is on the verge of writing the constituency redistricting bill into law with the backing of both the ruling coalition and opposition.

"It is desirable that the Diet pare down the maximum disparity in the weight of a vote among constituencies to less than 2 to 1 in amending the election system featuring the single-seat constituency system," presiding Judge Yasuro Tsuyuki said in the ruling.

The 300 single-seat constituencies were created by the "electoral reform" bill passed in January, a law that replaced Japan's decades- old, multiple constituencies with the 511-seat lower chamber with a mix of 300 single-seat electorates and the remaining 200 seats to be picked through a proportional representation formula.

The lawsuit was filed by six lawyers, led by Tetsuya Kanao, who are the constituents of the Hiroshima No. 1 constituency.

The lawyers asked the court to issue an order invalidating the 1993 general election at which the maximum gap in the weight of a vote stood at 2.82 to 1, as such disparity, they said, contravenes the equality of all humans under laws.

The latest ruling followed similar judgment at the Tokyo and Osaka High Courts that the vote disparity of the 2.82 to 1 in the 1993 general election is constitutionally justifiable.

Attorney Jiro Yamamoto, chief of the six-lawyer plaintiff group, told reporters the rulings by the three high courts against voters' interests "demonstrated the vulnerability of the judicial branch of Japanese power" in relation to the executive and legislative branches.

"Why did not the courts stand up to establish an electoral system capable of translating the wills of various voters onto politics on the basis of equality?" The lawyer asked.

Attorney Kanao, another driving force behind the lawsuit, told reporters, "it is clearly predictable that the disparity of the weight of a vote will again eclipse 2 to 1, even under the single- seat constituency system."

"We will file a lawsuit if the disparity exceeded that ratio again," he said.

The Home Affairs Ministry said in a Aug. 19 report that the maximum vote disparity in a next general election to be contested under the single-seat system will stand at 2.226 to 1, calculated on population data available as of March 31.

Next Election Should Be 'Early Autumn' 1997

OW3009060394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0543 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 30 KYODO—The fall of 1997 is the best time for the next general election to be held under a fresh electoral system, a senior member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said Friday [30 September].

"In my view, the timing of the next general poll should be around early autumn in 1997," LDP Vice President Keizo Obuchi said in a lecture to top editors of KYODO NEWS SERVICE's member newspapers.

He said that it will take much time before each political party selects suitable candidates for new voting districts even if a bill redrawing an electoral map for House of Representatives constituencies wins Diet approval.

Obuchi's comments came against the backdrop of a chorus of calls from major opposition parties for the dissolution of the lower house once the redistricting bill becomes law and takes effect by the end of the year.

Obuchi, 57, has been elected 11 times from the No. 3 constituency of Gunma Prefecture, north of Tokyo. He served as chief cabinet secretary under the administration of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

His LDP is the largest contingent in the current coalition government, which is also shared by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's Social Democratic Party [of Japan] and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger].

The Diet in January legislated a set of political reform bills that will introduce a new polling system that combines single-seat constituencies with proportional representation.

Passage of the redrawing bill is required to enable the next general poll to be lawfully contested.

The legislation is expected to pass through the Diet in mid- November and go into effect by the end of the year after a one-month public notice period.

Impact of Electoral Redistricting on Candidates

942A0680A Tokyo SHUKAN JIJI in Japanese 3 Sep 94 pp 14-19

[Article by Masaru Inukai, Susumu Kagaki, Hideaki Nanao, and Takashi Kaizu, SHUKAN JIJI reporters: "Winners and Losers Under Redistricting"]

[Text] **Hokkaido: Governor Yokomichi's Candidacy Making Other Candidates Nervous**

Governor Takahiro Yokomichi's leadership in the "liberal" force of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] and Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] has diminished. However, as an overwhelmingly popular governor, he is a very strong candidate in elections. He obtained close to 70 percent of the votes during the past two gubernatorial elections and is considered to be "a candidate who always wins," according to a Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] member. Therefore, other Hokkaido candidates are newvous as to which single-seat district he will select in the next Diet election.

Yokomichi is expected to be a candidate in Hokkaido District 1. Under the current medium-sized constituency system, this district has a quorum of six Diet seats . However, under the new single-seat system, this district will be divided into five small districts with five diet seats, causing one current diet member to lose his seat. There are over 10 candidates running in the next election, making it difficult to predict the outcome, even without Yokomichi's candidacy.

Yokomichi is most likely to run in the new District 1, where he resides, but the incumbent SDPJ Diet member, Hideko Ito, also intends to run in the same district. Ito and another SDPJ candidate, Ryuichi Ikeda, District 4, and Komeito's Junichi Osanai, District 2, are all supporters of Yokomichi as Hokkaido's governor. Also, Sakigake's Hisashi Arai, who served as the governor's assistant, will run in District 3.

One of Yokomichi's aides believes that "the governor should be careful not to interfere with chances of winning of other candidates in the election because they have supported him for the past 12 years as governor," and he is looking into the possibility of Yokomichi running in District 5, where Yokomichi has "solid footing inherited from his father Setsuo, who was also a diet member."

But the Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] Nobutaka Machimura may also run in the District 5. Machimura was elected with the most votes in the last election. However, his camp will try to avoid competing with Yokomichi because "Yokomichi is very well known and will be able to gain the most floating votes."

Actually, SDPJ members are urging Yokomichi to run from District 1. A SDPJ Hokkaido assembly member said: "the governor, who is known nationwide, should run for the best district—District 1, where he served as governor."

In addition, there is the issue of what party ticket Yokomichi should hold. In view of a future political realignment, it is likely that he will run on an independent ticket, but then again he may run as a SDPJ candidate. If so, "party coordination" will likely make him run for District 1, according to Ito's office.

Moreover, if the LDP-SDPJ-Sakigake coalition will cooperate in the Hokkaido election, the race will be run differently. In any case, the situation is fluid because of Governor Yokomichi's candidacy. Other candidates want to see where the governor is running before deciding their own constituencies, but the governor's aide says that "there is no need to hurry because the election is still far ahead," causing other candidates to remain nervous. ***(By Masaru Inukai, SHUKAN JIJI Sapporo office)***

Nigata: Tanaka, the "Eye of the Typhoon," Creates a Confused Race in Echigo

The current Nigata District 3 will be divided into three single-seat districts, causing the incumbent and former Diet members to fight for election. In particular, the Science and Technology Agency [STA] Director Makiko Tanaka has become the "eye of the typhoon." STA Director Tanaka's parents' home in Nishiyama-cho, Kariwa-gun will be in the new District 2, while Nagaoka City, where her family business Echigo Transportation is located, will be the new District 5. This has resulted in the candidates paying close attention to which district Tanaka will seek to represent.

On 2 and 3 August, during the Nagaoka festival, STA Director Tanaka returned to her constituency for the first time since she was appointed a cabinet minister. Throughout the visit, the STA director was in a good mood with her supporters, but when she was asked which district she will be running in, she said in a guarded manner: "I cannot tell you that." Her local campaign office explained her reply by saying: "Because she won the previous election, supported by voters in the current District 3, it is difficult at this stage to say where she will be running in the next election. However, common sense dictates that it may be Nishiyama, where her parents' home is located," hinting at the possibility that she may run in the new District 2.

If STA Director Tanaka chooses to run in the Nagaoka district, she will be running neck-and-neck with Shinseito's Yukio Hoshino. However, Hoshino's campaign worker said: "We do not have any special measures to use against Tanaka. No matter who runs against Hoshino, we feel the campaign will be difficult." Moreover, the campaign worker added: "Although Tanaka's home is in Nishiyama, Nagaoka is where the votes are. I am sure any candidate will be attracted to Nagaoka."

Moreover, the LDP has three candidates in the current District 3, which requires coordination. One of them, Tatsuo Murayama, says he will "follow the party's decision" and will be ready to run in the proportional representation district if necessary, according to his campaign office. The camp of Shin Sakurai, who assumed responsibility and resigned his cabinet post as an Environment Agency director because of his remarks on Japan's role in World War II, urges Sakurai to run in the new District 5, which includes Muika-machi, Minamiuonuma-gun, where Sakurai was born.

Hideo Watanabe, the former minister of posts and telecommunications, who lost in the last election, represents an area covering Sanjo City and Nagaoka City. However, his campaign office is "not sure where he will run." As for Nigata District 1, where the LDP-ticketed candidate is open, resulting from the death of Motoji Kondo, former agriculture minister, Watanabe's campaign worker pointed out: "Only Ms. Makiko Tanaka can win in Niigata City without a support body."

Regarding the current District 3, if Tanaka runs in either new District 1 or District 2, Watanabe runs in new District 4, and one of the remaining two runs in the proportional representation district, there will be no conflict.

The key to the situation is STA Director Makiko Tanaka's decision. For the time being, other camps will continue to watch the movements of "Makiko fireworks." ***(By Susumu Kagaki, SHUKAN JIJI Nigata office)***

Gunma: "Confrontation of the Big Four" Threatens Nakasone Camp

The introduction of a combined electoral system consisting of a single-seat constituency and proportional representation creates a stir in the "conservative kingdom—Gunma," which has moved from a contest between Yasuo Fukuda and Yasuhiro Nakasone to the big four showdown.

The current Gunma District 3, known for its confrontation between Fukuda and Nakasone, has been divided into District 4 centering on Takasaki City and District 5, which includes Shibukawa City and Tomioka City. The coalition government's heavyweights: LDP's Keizo Obuchi, Yasuo Fukuda, Yasuhiro Nakasone, and the SDPJ's Tsuruo Yamaguchi will fight over two Diet seats. However, coordination among LDP candidates and between LDP and SDPJ candidates is expected to be difficult, causing friction among rivaling camps.

In particular, former Prime Minister Nakasone's course of action has been watched closely. Nakasone not only won the last election with the fewest votes, but also, he has recently invited criticism by going against the party decision to name Murayama prime minister. He supported former Prime Minister Kaifu nstead. His action even resulted in booing by his local supporters, who said: "A weathercock has missed the direction of the wind. He is nothing but an old fool. The new LDP Vice President Obuchi is gaining power. May be it's time for a generational shift." It is clear that local support is declining.

At present, members of his local support organization and others are considering future actions. It is highly possible that he may run in the proportional representation district rather than Gunma District 4. Another strong possibility is that he may retire and let his oldest son Hirofumi Nakasone, currently an upper house diet member, run in his place in the lower house election.

In the new District 5, Obuchi and Yamaguchi are expected to compete with each other. Obuchi is from Nakanojo-machi, and Yamaguchi is from Kusatsumachi; both have strong local support. It appears impossible for either one to move to another District. However, Yamaguchi received considerably fewer votes than Obuchi and Fukuda from this region during the last election. Thereore, he may decide to run in District 4 or in the proportional representation district.

Director Tozuka of the LDP Gunma Prefectural Federation talked about the difficulty in coordinating candidates: "Regarding the seven incumbent LDP diet members, it's up to them to coordinate among themselves. It will cause chaos if the prefectural federation interferes from the outset."

On the other hand, the SDPJ Gunma headquarters is unable to hide its confusion, saying: "We have so far competed fiercely against the LDP candidates and that resulted in the power that created the births of party chairman, general secretary, prime minister, and president. We don't know about the position of the party central headquarters, but there is no way that we can cooperate in an election here in Gunma." It appears that the big four showdown will continue for a while. ***(By Hideaki Nanao, SHUKAN JIJI Maebashi office)***

Kumamoto: Hosokawa Aims for a Revival, Beginning With a Victory in the New District

The Japan New Party's Morihiro Hosokawa is likely to run in Kumamoto's new District 1. The Kumamoto District 1 includes the central and eastern portions of the Kumamoto City (the western portion belongs to the District 2) comprising about 70 percent of the population of Kumamoto (According to the 1990 census, the population of Kumamoto City is 626,727).

During the general election held in the summer of 1993, Hosokawa garnered approximately 126,000 votes, which is 40 percent of the valid ballots, and nearly three times the votes that Koshikai's (Kaifu group) Takeshi Noda received, who was also elected next to Hosokawa. Although not as powerful as during the last year's general election, if Hosokawa runs in District 1 with most of the Kumamoto City included under it, he may again receive many votes.

Chairman Kimihiro Yasuda of the Japan New Party Kumamoto headquarters, who oversees things in Hosokawa's absence, indicated that Hosokawa plans to run in the District 1, saying: "this will answer the wishes of the supporters who expect him to run in Kumamoto."

There are three other candidates who are expected to run against Hosokawa in District 1. The two incumbents include Shoichi Tanaka of the SDPJ and Eiki Kurata of the Komeito Party. The LDP plans to back Eiichi Iwashita, a member of Kunmamoto prefectural assembly. If coordination between the LDP and SDPJ materializes, Tanaka may run in District 2. Also, to avoid competition with Hosokawa, Kurata may very well run in the proportional representation district. Therefore, this may result in a single combat between Hosokawa and the LDP-SDPJ-backed Iwashita.

On 8 August, Hosokawa paid a return visit to his constituency after almost a year's absence. He urged his supporters to make a choice in the new election between a new-new party and the LDP group, saying: "I will make clear where I stand in the argument between reform and conservatism. Please make a wise choice."

Hosokawa's strategy is to win big over the LDP-SDPJ force by clearly stating his different position from that of the coalition government, and then expand the winning tide from Kumamoto to Kyushu and to the old coalition camps nationwide. From this point of view, "it is possible that Hosokawa may even run in the proportional representation district in the Kyushu block," according to Chairman Yasuda.

In the Kumamoto Prefecture, the Japan New Party plans to back its incumbent member Masayoshi Yagami in District 5, Chairman Yasuda in District 4, and another candidate in District 3. As for District 2, Noda is expected to run. There have been active talks between Noda and Hosokawa to support the [future] new-new party candidates within the prefecture, centering on the Japan New Party candidates.

Hosokawa, who steped down from power after being implicated in a money-scandal, sees the support rate for the Japan New Party decreasing. He now aims for a political revival by winning the election in the single-seat district on a new party ticket as a member of the new-new party. Preparations for this move are underway. ***(By Takashi Kaizu, SHUKAN JIJI Kumamoto office.***

* Reporters Discuss Political Situation

942A0636A Tokyo SEIKAI in Japanese Sep 94 pp 42-46

[Discussion by unnamed reporters: "This One Might Become an Unexpectedly Long-Term Regime—the 'Ozawa Myth' Crumbling With a Sound"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reporter D] Hata, after all, did not choose the Diet dissolution, and we see this as a factor leading to the recent LDP [Liberal Democratic Party]-SDPJ [Social Democratic Party of Japan] coalition. Why did Hata not choose it? At the time, the wind of dissolution raged over Nagata-cho and Diet members wavered with fright.

[Reporter A] An atmosphere certainly once prevailed in which all believed by totally that the dissolution would come. In that situation, Hata held a meeting with Ozawa at his official residence. That meeting lasted an unusually long 10 hours. At that time, Ozawa is reported to have said that "no money will fall from heaven this time." In other words, he said that no monetary aid was possible this time. In the previous election, as is widely said, money came—I mean probably came (laughter)—from Daisaku Ikeda.

There is no doubt that Hata wanted the dissolution. However, Ozawa said that no monetary backup was possible then. Money used in the election is like dope. That is, if an organization used 300 million yen in the previous election, it cannot manage with a less amount next time. Unless it pours at least the same amount, the organization cannot make a move. This is why Hata gave up the dissolution.

[Reporter D] If so, the remark that Hata did not dissolve the Diet from his concern about the DSP [Democratic Socialist Party] and the JNP [Japan New Party] although he thought that Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] could win in the election is a downright lie.

[Reporter A] Yes, it is. Shinseito itself was also not sure if it could win, for there was no money. Then, the question arises why Ikeda did not furnish money. The reason is the criticism from insiders and outsiders against Ozawa and the Ichi-Ichi line [from Ichiro Ozawa and Yuichi Ichikawa; noting the closed-door decision-making by Shinseito Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa and Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa during the Hosokawa and Hata regimes].

Under these circumstances, a voice calling for Ikeda's summons as a witness began to grow with intensity within the LDP, and so it became impossible for Ikeda to prop up Ozawa as he had done in the past. He thought that he would be summoned as witness if Shinseito lost in the election.

In addition, moves of "Shigatsu-kai [April Society]," an anti-Soka Gakkai group, too, became active. Ikeda thus concluded that he should keep a distance from Ozawa so as to sever relations with him any time.

[Reporter C] That is also the stance of the present Komeito. When the Murayama regime was born, a flood of phone calls are said to have reached the SDPJ Headquarters from many Komeito Diet members who said: "Congratulations. Please continue your favors toward me" (laughter).

Put simply, they conveyed the message that they wished to have continued favors because Komeito would not stick to Shinseito and act on the basis of a free and unbiased principle in the future.

[Reporter D] That is, they said, Please do not forsake us (laughter). A rumor is afloat that Secretary General Ichikawa will be dismissed.

[Reporter A] Such being the case, the future theme of the former coalition ruling camp seems to be "in what way it should get on with Ozawa." Kaifu has also drawn a line between himself and Ozawa. Moreover, Ozawa desires to create a large unified opposition group immediately, but the DSP and the JNP do not readily agree to meet his desire. That is, each of them has begun correcting "the way it gets on" with Ozawa.

[Reporter C] The U.S. Embassy, too, has recently begun pinning hopes on the LDP-SDPJ coalition, thinking that it is more likely to work out measures for deregulation and surplus reductions. This expectation comes in part from the feeling that Hosokawa and Hata did nothing in this regard. In short, herein is also seen the departure from Ozawa.

At any rate, the United States views that Ozawa's influence has fallen considerably through the recent political development, and it is now in the mood to think that it cannot use only Ozawa as it did in the past. It has come to watch Ozawa with a cold eye.

[Reporter B] More serious is the inside of Shinseito. The rumor is circulating that the force of Keiwa Okuda, the central figure among those criticizing Ozawa, has already grown into more than half of the party strength. At any rate, the departure from Ozawa has been progressing in his own party—Shinseito—and in the former coalition ruling camp. There are indications that they are avoiding Ozawa.

[Reporter C] Ozawa would like to quickly realize the system of a large unified opposition group. And he thinks that he will develop the system into a new party and put someone like Kaifu as its public face. This is also the way of survival for Ozawa. However, even Kaifu does not consent to this line.

[Reporter B] As to the aforementioned rumor on Ichikawa's dismissal, if that is true, then Ozawa will no longer be able to use Sokagakkai's money and votes. Then, the "Ozawa myth" will further crumble with a rumbling sound.

[Reporter A] Just a word in this connection. According to a source from the Ozawa side, when Ozawa attended Masakuni Murakami's party, Ozawa acted very modestly with a refreshed expression on his face. Ozawa may have mended his ways (laughter).

[Reporter C] However, Kozo Watanabe put it as follows: He should have been humble at the very time when he was at the top of his power. Instead, he hid below the surface without showing what he was doing. And when he was losing power, he appeared at such a party which he did not need to attend and was bowing and scraping. The sight was really disturbing (laughter).

Well, this may indicate that people who could not say anything until now have begun having their say...

[Reporter D] To be sure, as Mr. A said a little while ago, the future task of the former coalition ruling camp is "how it should get on with Ozawa," and it deserves our attention how Ozawa will respond. This may mean that we still need to focus our attention on Ozawa's movements (laughter).

This Might Be and Unexpectedly Long-Term Regime

[Reporter A] Then, at what point did the other idea—the conservative-conservative coalition—disappear?

[Reporter B] It was the Mitsuzuka faction—more correctly, Mitsuzuka himself—that moved for that idea to the last. He kept using the two ideas—the LDP-SDPJ coalition and the conservative-conservative coalition—each in its proper way. He fixed his sights on the LDP-SDPJ coalition pursued by Secretary General Mori and his followers and, on the other hand, responded to

Ozawa's approach, thereby leaving the possibility of the conservative-conservative coalition.

Eventually, things moved toward the LDP-SDPJ coalition at the last stage, and the conservative-conservative coalition idea disappeared. After all, the LDP-SDPJ coalition is the LDP's desperate choice. There was the fear that if things remained as they were, the party could neither pay even the salaries of its workers nor maintain its organization.

[Reporter C] One thing that I thought interesting with regard to the conservative-conservative coalition was the confrontation between the Obuchi faction and the other factions within the LDP. I had better call it the strife of the Obuchi faction plus the Miyazawa faction versus the Watanabe and the Mitsuzuka factions—well, the Mitsuzuka faction is Mitsuzuka alone, though.

At any rate, the Obuchi faction did not want to come together with Ozawa for anything. Therefore, it attempted a desperate rollback with Kajiyama as the central figure. Drawn into this operation was the Miyazawa faction centering on Koichi Kato. As to the Watanabe faction, Koko Sato, etc. joined hands with Kajiyama's group. Thus, Mitsuzuka was left alone.

[Reporter D] The departure from Ozawa became a topic a few minutes ago, but the same thing can be said with regard to Rengo's Yamagishi. A mood against Yamagishi is rising within Rengo, where voices are saying: "You will resign in 10 months, and so do not make any remarks." Aspects in it indicate a shift toward a complete Washio-Ashida system.

Under these circumstances, Yamagishi is eagerly asking the SDPJ to become a realistic party. When the SDPJ joins hands with the LDP in policies and Murayama handles the control of the political situation well, it will give rise to the possibility of Yamagishi extending his term one more year. This is what Yamagishi has in mind. Well, this means that Yamagishi, too, abandoned Ozawa.

[Reporter C] If things develop that way, the possibility will arise that the DSP may join in the government, jumping over Komeito. Then, Komeito also will make a move. The move will be a fairly drastic one.

[Reporter A] Well, returning to the actual phases, what do you think of Murayama as prime minister? During the summit meeting, he suddenly suffered from food poisoning and made an emergency trip to the hospital. A certain sports newspaper derided it as "job poisoning" (laughter).

[Reporter B] In Naples (the Naples summit), leaders of the respective nations had relatively good impressions of Murayama, had they not? Compared with Hosokawa, he does not have a good figure, but his very sincere character was felt by them. They thought he was a simple and modest country gentleman.

[Reporter C] It is said that he had only four sack suits, and so he tailored a suit hurriedly for the summit. He is also said to cook meals by himself at his official residence. Because such talks are widely spread among the people, all seem to have good feelings about him within the country as well.

[Reporter D] He is utterly different for sure from past prime ministers. Previous prime ministers had all the money, ability, and broad personnel connections. That is, those with power became prime ministers. Well, this trend may have changed for the first time when Uno took office, though (laughter).

[Reporter B] The rate of support for the cabinet is low, but this reflects the criticism against the unprincipled LDP-SDPJ union, and I bet the people will never have any bad impressions about Murayama himself.

Nevertheless, when it comes to the question of actual leadership, I cannot but be skeptical about his capacity. I have a simple question if he, a total layman in the fields of diplomacy and national defense, can really make his way as prime minister.

[Reporter A] However, the LDP's Kono (foreign minister) and Hashimoto (minister of international trade and industry) and Sakigake [Harbinger]'s Takemura will thoroughly cover him in those fields and make all efforts to protect Prime minister Murayama. I think that actual decisions will surely be made by them and that in a form fitting to the SDPJ's policy line.

[Reporter C] The SDPJ will shortly hold an extraordinary convention. I would like to pay attention to whether it can embark on policy changes as a party in the convention.

The SDPJ is, after all, a party walking wearily with a trailing tail called socialism. If it can convert to what is called the realistic policy line at this point, this regime could unexpectedly last long.

[Reporter A] That is right. The SDPJ has not carried out full-scale policy line discussions regarding what course it should take after the collapse of the cold war. Therefore, as to how many years the regime will last, the point is if the party can decide to go with policies like, say, those of Sakigake—though it is unlikely to make that much changes at a stroke.

[Reporter B] However, there is this possibility. I say this because the so-called leftist faction moved as the central force in producing the Murayama regime. What is more, the regime was produced through a coalition with the LDP. There is this possibility if a party platform reflecting so-called liberal ideas is worked out prior to the upcoming convention. And, when its policy line changes completely, the past rightist faction may even become the leftist faction the other way around (laughter).

[Reporter C] Turning to the issue of the next small constituency election, there is the election professional, Takeshita, in the LDP. He has a plan in his mind to put forward LDP candidates in at least 250 small constituencies if not in all 300. And he will ask the SDPJ to support a fair number of LDP candidates under the name of competitive coexistence.

At this point, will the SDPJ be able to collect and unite liberal forces such as the DSP and the JNP? If it will, while fighting the LDP, it can reduce Ozawa's force into something as small as the Japan Communist Party. Moreover, I think that this is the only way for the SDPJ to survive. At any rate, I suppose that the party name—SDPJ—will disappear...

[Reporter D] Well, the so-called scandal-ridden political situation has continued until now. How about the current cabinet members in this regard? Some quite "terrible" cases are catching our eye (laughter).

[Reporter A] A rumor is afloat that Ozawa, for instance, is desperately looking for cabinet member scandals. However, what will be the result? When cases are investigated thoroughly, they all might rebound against Shinseito and Ozawa, might they not?

It is rather Ozawa who is in danger. For instance, the future of the trial of Kishiro Nakamura draws our attention. Will anything that implicates Ozawa come out in the trial? There is a large possibility for that.

In addition, the change of regime has a great influence. The LDP now has the posts of justice minister and chairman of the National Public Safety Commission (home minister). A rumor is abroad that an investigation of Ozawa is already in progress in connection with Kanemaru.

[Reporter D] After all, Ozawa has been the topic of our talk from first to last (laughter).

Tokyo Said Hoping To Restore Ties With PRC

OW2909143894 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 28 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 3

[Text] A senior government official indicated on the evening of 27 September that the government wanted to restore Japan-China relations through the talks with the CPC delegation which is scheduled to visit Japan on 4 October at the invitation of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ].

China has reacted strongly to Japan's decision to allow Taiwan's Executive Yuan Vice President Hsu Li-te to attend the Hiroshima Asian Games. The Japanese Government wants to explain to China its basic bilateral policy, saying it will firmly maintain friendly cooperative relations based on the Japan-China Joint Declaration, and will not allow ties between Japan and Taiwan to become a political relationship. It hopes to obtain China's understanding.

Li Shuzheng, head of the international liaison department of the CPC Central Committee, and five others will visit Japan as part of a regular exchange program with the SDPJ. Although no detailed schedule has yet been set, SDPJ Secretary General Wataru Kubo is due to meet the officials. It is also expected that talks with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama will be arranged.

The government official said: "We want to use every opportunity to explain to China our intentions. We must make every effort to maintain and develop Japanese relations with China."

PRC 'Angry' Over Hsu's Visit

OW3009054894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0509 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Hiroshima, Sept. 30 KYODO—Chinese sports officials Friday [30 September] resumed their angry censure of the scheduled visit to Japan of Taiwan's Deputy Premier Hsu Li-te and vowed to prolong the political disturbance that has so far soured the Hiroshima Asiad.

"From the beginning of the issue until now, we have reacted, strongly reacted, in order to prevent political disturbances," Wei Jizhong, deputy chief of mission of China's national team, said of the political row widely exposing the island territory's plight for greater global recognition.

"We are a sports delegation, but a political response will be unavoidable," he said at a morning briefing. "First we want to see if he is coming or not, then we want to see what kind of problems will appear."

From 1949, China has maintained that Taiwan is an inseparable part of the mainland and since the early 1970's has made efforts to prevent Taiwan from engaging in internationally recognized diplomatic relations and from participating in the United Nations.

Wei, who is also general secretary of China's Olympic Committee, said he has been in contact with the games organizing committee since he arrived Wednesday, but "an understanding has not been reached."

Wei refused to characterize the nature of the Chinese response, but made it clear that Beijing had empowered the delegation to carry out a threat made earlier this month to cause "political trouble at the games."

Hsu, who was invited in his capacity as president of Taiwan's bidding committee for the 2002 Asian Games by the Olympic Committee of Taiwan, was issued a Japanese visa in accordance with existing protocol concerning guests at such international sporting events.

Wei maintained that Hsu's motive was clearly political and aimed at destroying the framework of "one China" in the international order, while blasting Japanese officials for issuing the visa and harming the basis of Sino-Japanese relations.

"Now everyone can see that Sino-Japanese relations have been damaged and we bear no responsibility for this. This is a political issue not a sports issue," he said.

The Chinese delegation, however, was not all threats Friday, with delegation head Yuan Weimin confirming the participation of Chinese athletes in the games and continued support for the Olympic movement.

"The Chinese delegation will participate in the opening ceremony and also display the high spirit of the Chinese people... [ellipses as received] We will make efforts to achieve good results and bring forth contributions for the smooth operation of the games," he said.

To Aid UN Mission

OW3009031094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0244 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Narita, Sept. 30 KYODO—The first 100-member group of a Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) contingent to take part in a UN mission to help Rwandan refugees in Goma, Zaire flew out of Narita airport on Friday [30 September].

They will travel via the Kenyan capital of Nairobi and arrive in Goma on Sunday.

The 100 GSDF personnel will be based in the former French Forces' camp within Goma Airport, where 20 GSDF members on an advance mission have already started preparations, officials said.

An additional 160 GSDF personnel will go to Goma on two separate flights by Oct. 25, they said.

A total of 470 GSDF personnel and 10 officials will take part in the UN peacekeeping operations for three months.

Their main task is providing Rwandan refugees with medical support, water supplies and measures to prevent epidemics, the officials said.

It is the first time SDF personnel have been dispatched overseas for humanitarian purposes under Japan's UN Peacekeeping cooperation law. Japan has sent SDF troops to Cambodia and Mozambique to participate in UN peacekeeping operations there.

Clashes between Zairean troops and Goma residents are contributing to a deterioration in security in the area where the Japanese will be based and the UN High Commission for Refugees is hoping the Japanese can also serve to police the area.

During an inspection tour in Goma last week, Defense Agency Director General Tokuichiro Tamazawa hinted that SDF troops stationed in Rwandan refugee camps in Goma may use weapons to protect aid workers and other non-SDF members.

Major Goal of Mission

OW2909122094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1125 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Chitose, Japan, Sept. 29 KYODO—The first 100-member group of the main contingent from the Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) left New Chitose airport Thursday evening [29 September] for Tokyo to take part in a UN mission to help Rwandan refugees in Goma, Zaire.

The group, stationed at its camp in Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido, will stay overnight at the Narashino base near Narita airport, GSDF officials said.

The group's departure was brought forward by one day because of a powerful typhoon approaching western Japan.

The 100 GSDF personnel are expected to arrive in Goma on Oct. 2 and be based in the former French forces' camp within Goma airport, where 20 GSDF members on an advance mission have already started preparations.

In addition to the 100 members, an additional 160 GSDF personnel will be sent to Goma on two separate flights by Oct. 25.

The first group's leader, Col. Mitsunobu Kamimoto, 47, told a press conference at the GSDF's Minami-Eniwa Camp in western Hokkaido, "my main task as leader is bringing all members back to Japan safely."

Kamimoto said it would be possible for foreign aid workers to accept refugees into the GSDF's own camps in Goma if they are in danger in the refugee camps in Goma, which are packed with people fleeing from Rwanda.

At a send-off party held at the Minami-Eniwa base Thursday morning, Defense Agency chief Tokuichiro Tamazawa said, "the mission is opening a new page for the Self-Defense Forces' (SDF) international contributions."

During an inspection tour in Goma last week, Tamazawa hinted that SDF troops stationed in Rwandan refugee camps in Goma may use weapons to protect aid workers and other non-SDF members.

A total of 470 GSDF personnel and 10 officials will be engaged in the UN peacekeeping operations for three months.

Their main task is providing Rwandan refugees with medical support, water supply and measures to prevent epidemics.

In Tokyo, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama approved Tamazawa's view that it is safe to send Japanese peacekeepers to Goma.

The premier gave the green light Thursday evening after hearing Tamazawa explain the security situation in the refugee camps at the premier's official residence after flying back from the Hokkaido ceremony.

Tamazawa told the premier there have been various "incidents" involving refugees striving to obtain aid supplies, the officials said.

Tamazawa, however, played down such skirmishes as "isolated incidents" which he said were not instigated by any Rwandan groups or organizations.

"There have not been any systematically instigated security problems," Tamazawa was quoted as telling Murayama. "I do not have any misgivings, although there are some safety problems at night."

In Goma, Zaire, a UN official confirmed Thursday that 20 people were killed and 48 others seriously injured in a grenade attack by Zairean soldiers at Bukavu refugee camp on Sept. 21.

Tamazawa Hints Troop Pullout

OW3009080494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0700 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 30 KYODO—Defense Agency chief Tokuichiro Tamazawa predicted Friday [30 September] Japan would withdraw its troops from refugee camps in Goma, Zaire, if the situation in Rwanda aggravates, agency officials said.

Tamazawa hinted that the situation in Rwanda may worsen, depending on potential attacks by rebels, the officials said. But he insisted at a defense meeting that the security at refugee camps for Rwandan refugees in Goma is safe.

Tamazawa said that the three-month assignment until the end of December for the 470-member mission from Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) will remain unchanged. His comment came as the first 100-member group of a Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) contingent to participate in the UN Mission to help Rwandan refugees flew out of Narita airport on Friday morning.

More on Troop Withdrawal

OW2909144794 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 29 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 3

[Text] On the morning of 28 September, a government source commented on the issue of withdrawal of a Self-Defense Forces [SDF] contingent dispatched to Goma, Zaire, and stated: "(The SDF contingent dispatched recently) will not be under the command of the United Nations. If we consider the situation is dangerous, the SDF unit will be able to withdraw from Goma after notifying the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)." He thus indicated that it is possible for the SDF contingent to withdraw from Zaire at Japan's own discretion. Regarding the situation in Zaire, he said: "Although the situation is not generally dangerous, it appears that disturbances have been reported at some places." The source added: "We are prohibited from using weapons first. In case the situation becomes dangerous, it is necessary to suspend operations and watch developments."

Government To Extend Investment Tax Breaks

OW2909154494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1503 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 29 KYODO—The government said Thursday [29 September] it will extend tax incentives for corporate plant and equipment investment for an additional three months until the end of December this year.

The step, originally valid from Oct. 1, 1993, until Friday, is intended to help put the gradual economic recovery in Japan on a faster track, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said.

The extension will be listed in Friday's official gazette, the ministry said.

MITI said corporate capital spending is still in the doldrums, with such investment in the April-June quarter dropping 2.5 percent from the preceding period, while capital spending for the current fiscal year is projected to drop 3.8 percent to suffer a setback for the third consecutive year.

Sluggish equipment investment is one of three worrisome factors preventing a full economic recovery, along with the severe employment situation and uncertain exchange markets, the ministry said.

The tax break was contained in a 6.15 trillion yen pump-priming package adopted by the government in September last year.

The step covers 151 plant and equipment facilities subject to tax reductions—11 intended for improvement of Japan's distribution structure, 48 for technological development among small companies, 61 for efficient and environmentally friendly use of energy and 31 designed to stimulate corporate research and development in high technology.

New Law Said To Correct Transparent Bureaucracy

OW2909120594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1036 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 29 KYODO—Japan will enforce its first law on administrative procedure Saturday [1 October] in a bid to make bureaucratic decisions more transparent and curb the influence of lobbyists, govermernt officials said Thursday.

Due to resistance from within the nation's powerful bureaucracy and groups with vested interests, it has taken three decades and considerable foreign pressure to forge a legal framework for what often appears to be arbitrary administrative rule, they said.

The law spells out clear criteria for the processing of applications for government permits or licenses, while outlawing time-honored practices such as quashing applications or stalling the application process.

In the future, bureaucrats will have to justify their decisions, spelling out reasons for the refusal of an application, the officials said.

If a government agency is to withdraw a permit or to take other unfavorable measures, the party concerned must first be granted an opportunity to voice its stance. If the threatened sanctions are carried out, the step must be well-founded.

The tortuous paths of Japan's administrative machinery and its "exclusionary business practices" came under fire in the U.S.-Japan structural impediment initiative talks.

Unlike in the past, when administrative guidance was often given verbally, effectively veiling the reason for the decision, the new law requires documentation of objective, content and the person in charge of instructions, the officials said.

Upon request the documents must be given to the applicant. To ensure that such guidance retains its recommendation character, the new law prohibits its enforcement.

Transport Minister Shizuka Kamei created a stir in August when he instructed ministry officials to give Japan Airlines (JAL) "administrative guidance" to halt its plan to hire part-time female flight attendants.

Given the pressure, the airline shelved its plan, sparking a debate on how much political control should be allowed to interfere with private business decisions.

It remains to be seen whether the law will help undo previous practices. Legal experts point out a number of shortcomings that might render the law largely ineffective.

Criteria for decision-making are set by government agencies themselves. Local public organizations operate on the basis of their own administrative guidance, which is not subject to the law.

Because the law does not provide for penalties to enforce its objectives, complainants will still have to resort to an administrative suit to back their demands.

Business leaders said the law amounts to administering of Japanese herbal medicine to a patient who needs surgery, indicating that expectations for a dramatic change in the workings of the administrative machinery are low.

They also said citizens must be more vocal in their dealings with officials to exercise their newly won rights.

North Korea

Foreign Ministry's Response Distributed at UN

SK3009043794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0403 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 30 (KCNA)—An answer given by a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on September 16 concerning the discussion of the DPRK's "nuclear issue" at the September meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency was distributed as an official document of the United Nations Security Council on September 19.

Answering a question put by KCNA, the spokesman said the IAEA secretariat brought forward the issue of "Special Inspection" again in a bid to justify the agency's partiality at any cost, continue encroaching upon the DPRK's sovereignty and security and bring the nuclear issue to the origin of confrontation.

SKNDF Decries 'U.S. Warlikers', Kim Yong-sam

SK3009053894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 30 Sep 94

["Hanminjon Denounces Military Threats of U.S. Imperialists and S. Korean Puppets Against the North"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 30 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF, Hanminjon] published a statement on Tuesday denouncing the military threats of the U.S. imperialist warmaniacs and the Kim Yong-sam group against the northern half of Korea, a Seoul-based Voice of National Salvation report said.

According to the statement, the U.S. warlikers have deployed in the East Sea of Korea [Sea of Japan] their aircraft carrier flotilla with the 80,000-ton class carrier Kitty Hawk as the flagship, which has much greater fire power than the South Korean Naval and Air Forces put together, timing to coincide with the second session of the third-round talks between the DPRK and the United States, and are openly presenting military threats to the North.

This is an unpardonable criminal action intended to lay an artificial obstacle in the way of the DPRK-U.S. talks being promoted by the will of the Korean nation who loves peace and justice, and it is an outrageous military blackmail to the peaceloving North, the statement notes, and says:

They unhesitatingly resort to military pressure to gratify their unilateral demand, far from respecting the dialogue partner on an equal footing and approaching the solution of the issue with sincerity. This is a brigandish act which can be done only by such aggressors as the U.S. imperialists.

The U.S. imperialists' reckless military provocation is a pressure on the North and, at the same time, threat to the entire people in the South.

It is the United States which would bring a cold wave of tension and confrontation when a trend towards detente and reconciliation is created, and incite a war fever even by bringing forward a brigandish logic reversing black and white when it has no ground to unleash a war.

Noting that the Kim Yong-sam group is clinging to the U.S. "strategy of pressure on the North", the statement brands its act as an unpardonable crime intended to maintain its dirty remaining days on the doorstep of death with the patronage of the U.S. warlikers and leave this land as a U.S. base of war against the North, clean indifferent to the destiny of the nation.

It calls upon the people of different strata to turn out under the uplifted banner of independence against U.S. imperialism in the righteous patriotic war to get the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and check and frustrate the war moves of the U.S. warmaniacs and the Kim Yong-sam traitorous clique for destroying our fellow countrymen.

Kim Yong-sam's 'Nation-Selling Acts' Denounced

SK3009044894 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0250 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Dialogue by station reporters Chong Sung-kang and Yi In-chun: "The Kim Yong-sam Puppet Regime, Which Has Turned Its Back on the Nation, Should Be Overthrown"]

[Text] [Chong] Currently, the Kim Yong-sam puppet traitor is heatedly carrying out nation-selling acts, fascist oppression, and antireunification maneuvers, exceeding his dictator predecessors—traitors Pak Chong-hui, Chon Tu-hwan, and No Tae-u. Today, we will talk about this matter.

[Yi] When viewing the acts carried out by the Kim Yong-sam puppet traitor from the time he took power up to the present, more than anything else, we know very well that the rascal is an ugly nation-selling man. When viewing this fact, as soon as the Kim Yong-sam ring came into power—that is when he became president—he provided more money for maintaining the U.S. Forces begging the United States to hold its plan to reduce the U.S. occupation forces in South Korea, and according to the Wartime Host Nations Support Agreement, the U.S. [word indistinct] made practical measures of allowing the United States to use South Korea's port facilities freely in case of an emergency and allowed the U.S. Forces to use the facilities of the U.S. Air Force which are to be returned to South Korea. Is that not so?

It also newly dragged in the U.S. intelligence support team and made South Korea into a more thorough military spying base. Did the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique not open the rice market—which is the lifeline of the South Korean people's dietary life—to outside forces by begging for sanctions against the fellow countrymen in the North, and did he not earnestly request that he would forget the past crimes of the Japanese imperialists if Japan takes part in sanctions against the North?

Even today, the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique is talking about the past nuclear transparency and so on and is making a fuss. Moreover, it is putting the brakes on the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. agreed statement and is trying to interfere in the work to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

As you know, all past rulers in South Korea carried out nation-selling acts and depended on outside forces as if they were their lives. However, we do not know anyone like the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique, the nation-selling group, that raved, begging to take sanctions against the fellow countrymen and trying to make the fellow countrymen the sacrificial offering of the nuclear war.

[Chong] Yes, that is so. In committing antinational fascist oppression, its tyranny and viciousness, the Kim Yong-sam puppet traitor greatly exceeds that of his preceding dictators. Right after he took power, the Kim Yong-sam ring emphasized the need for the existence of the anachronistic National Security Law and the Agency for National Security Planning. By bringing in 150,000 armed policemen, he brutally suppressed the South Korean youth, students, and people's struggle calling for the truth of the Kwangju incident and punishing those responsible for it.

He also exercised the emergency control right and oppressed violently the struggle by the workers who demanded the right to live. Thus, it was revealed that he is a fascist maniac, more so than the preceding military dictators.

Even today in South Korea, the Kim Yong-sam ring is driving the Korean Federation of University Student Councils [Hanchongnyon], including those who have faith in the chuche Korea, into a corner by saying that they are insidious forces moving according to orders by the North. It is also condemning the legal patriotic reunification organizations and dissident organizations as pro-communist organizations, and is recklessly bringing armed policemen onto the campuses, work sites, and rally sites, thus oppressing them brutally.

As such, is today's South Korea not becoming a rampant fascist place where democracy and human rights are being trampled mercilessly?

[Yi] Yes. The Kim Yong-sam puppet clique is an extremely evil antireunification group that runs counter to the great national unity and reunification. Reflecting the aspiration of the entire nation to achieve reunification in the nineties without fail, after the inauguration of the civilian government, we presented the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation, and proposed to exchange North and South Korean top-level envoys to discuss and resolve the pending issues between the North and the South. The Kim Yong-sam puppet clique came out with the nonexistent nuclear issue and answered us by cutting the dialogue channel between the North and the South, which had continued even during the Fifth Republic of traitor Chon Tu-hwan and the Sixth Republic of traitor No Tae-u, and by resuming nuclear war exercises of northward aggression.

Meantime, openly raving about the so-called reunification under the fancy liberal and democratic system, the Kim Yong-sam puppets have suppressed the peace and reunification movement of South Korean youths, students, and people, and the demand for civilian-level dialogue, with rifles and swords. The Kim Yong-sam ring's atrocious suppression of the fifth pannational rally held in Seoul in August deploying tens of thousands of police forces and tear gas cars, and even helicopters, is being strongly denounced by the entire nation and the world's progressive people. Due to this incident, the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique exposed to the world the truth of its fascist brutal suppression and its identification of an antireunification group that denies dialogue and reunification.

[Chong] That is right. Traitor Kim Yong-sam, the ringleader of the antidemocratic, antinational, and antireunification fascist civilian government, is a political prostitute, a villain, and human trash without the least basic civil moral, not to mention political philosophy. He is garbage of the nation that would not stop at anything to maintain his ambition for power. He is proud of betrayal and treachery, and good at stubbornness and obstinacy.

[Yi] That is correct.

[Chong] Because he is such a person, the Kim Yong-sam ring committed such grave criminal acts as not showing good manners as compatriots and as a dialogue partner but wielding swords behind the backs of the compatriots when the entire nation was wailing about the greatest sorrow of the passing away of the fatherly leader; and blocking the way of South Korean people, youths, and students, who wanted to express condolences.

[Yi] Yes. It is natural that the whole nation and the world's progressive people are strongly denouncing the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique and branding it as a dirty colonial slave, a civilian fascist, and a beast worse than a dog. As long as such an inhumane and treacherous Kim Yong-sam clique is kept intact in South Korea, the South Korean people cannot be free from colonial subjugation and fascist chains, and reconciliation and unity between the North and the South, and peace and peaceful reunification of the country will be impossible.

The Kim Yong-sam puppet clique, abandoned by the compatriots and laughed at by the world's good people, must be overthrown. In conformity with the people's demand, the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique must eliminate the fascist evil law and the brutal organization, release unfairly imprisoned patriots without delay, and step down from power. The Kim Yong-sam ring, which runs counter to the aspiration of the times and the nation, and challenges justice, will not be able to avoid the stern trial of history.

North Invites South Koreans to Tomb Ceremony

SK3009104794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 30 (KCNA)—The spokesman of the Tangun's Tomb Rehabilitation Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea published a statement today concerning the invitation extended to the representatives of South Korean political parties and organisations and public figures to participate in the ceremony for the completion of the tomb of Tangun scheduled in Pyongyang early in October.

The statement reads:

The ceremony to be held with the splendid reconstruction of the tomb of Tangun is a great auspicious event for the nation of 70 million which we owe to the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the sun of the nation, who in his lifetime put his heart and soul into the excavation of the tomb and wisely guided the reconstruction of the tomb of the father of the nation to be suitable to the dignity of the country with a history spanning 5,000 years.

For the representatives of South Korean political parties and organisations and public figures and compatriots overseas to share the seats with us in this auspicious event of the nation will be a good occasion in demonstrating to the world the long history and homogeneity of our nation which has inherited the same blood in one territory and promoting the harmony and unity of the 70 million fellow countrymen.

In this sense, a political party and organisations in the DPRK courteously invited representatives of South Korean political parties and organisations, historians, university professors, and other figures, over 60 all told, to our ceremony for the completion of the tomb of Tangun and sent letters to them through the shortest channels of radio broadcasting and telegrams.

We are glad to note that some figures of South Korea expressed their willingness to visit Pyongyang in response to this invitation and welcome them.

And we notify again those figures who have not yet received the letters of invitation through telegrams under unavoidable circumstances that the invitation letters sent through radio remain effective.

From October 1, we will send competent reception personnel to Panmunjom and receive figures of various circles from the South with warm compatriotic feelings and our diplomatic mission in Beijing will warmly receive those who want to visit Pyongyang via the Chinese capital city, forced by circumstances.

We express the firm belief that the representatives of South Korean political parties and organisations and public figures will certainly participate in the ceremony for the completion of the tomb of Tangun, an auspicious event of the nation.

South Koreans Reportedly Praise Kim Chong-il

SK3009045294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0412 GMT 30 Sep 94

["Great Humanity of Dear Leader Kim Chong-il Lauded"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 30 (KCNA)—South Korean people are ardently revering the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, according to Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation.

A professor Kim of Hongik University told his students that the death of President Kim Il-song is the biggest loss and sorrow ever in the history of the Korean nation.

He said:

"Standing at the head of our nation is dear General Kim Chong-il, an outstanding thinker and theoretician, an ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander and the tender-hearted father of the nation who has fully inherited the natural gifts of President Kim Il-song.

"Under the guidance of General Kim Chong-il whom nobody in the world can match in wisdom, intelligence and literary and military accomplishments, the struggle of our people for independence, democracy and reunification will surely emerge victorious."

Kang Se-chin, a dissident in Pusan, told his colleagues:

"We have general Kim Chong-il, a brilliant commander who descended from heaven to inherit the distinguished natural gifts of President Kim Il-song.

"I have admired his distinguished traits and now I am deeply moved by his great humanity.

"The dear leader Kim Chong-il is, indeed, a great man."

Yi Chin-myong, a dismissed professor in Inchon, said:

"Following the course of the talks between the North and the United States, I feel the joy and the pride of the nation at the thought that the Tangun nation has greeted another sun like President Kim Il-song peerless in its 5,000-year long history.

"I will devote my remaining years to the noble cause of reunification as a member of the nation having the dear leader Kim Chong-il with the spirit and will of Mt. Paektu as the lodestar of reunification and the leader of the nation."

Worldwide Campaign Supports 10-Point Program

SK3009101994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Spelling of all names as received]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 30 (KCNA)—The signature campaign supporting "10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song was held in different countries.

In Tanzania the secretary of the Coast Regional Youth Union signed the signature paper on behalf of its 60,000 youths on September 15 and the commissioner of Dodoma region on behalf of its 1,200,000 people on September 20.

As of September 21, a total of 3,172,800 people of 16 units signed the signature paper in Tanzania.

After putting his signature to the paper, the commissioner of Dodoma region said Korea must be reunified in the spirit of national independence.

Noting that if Korea is to be reunified, it is imperative to keep to the principle of national independence as clarified by the 10-point programme, he called for the withdrawal of the U.S. Forces from South Korea.

Chairman Khaled Mohi Eddin and General Secretary Rifaat es-Said of the National Progressive Unionist Party of Egypt signed the signature paper on behalf of its 20,000 members on September 17 and manager of the East Economic Company of Egypt Emil Wahba on behalf of its 8,000 employees on September 19.

In Guyana, the leader of the Amerindian Action Movement Peter Persaud, leader of the Labour Party Nanda Gopaul, Chairman of the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs Y. Bashir, the mayor and deputy mayor of Georgetown, the general secretaries of the Trades Union Congress and the Union of Agricultural and General Workers signed the signature paper on behalf of their members.

PRC's Jiang Zemin Meets With Vice President

SK2909235594 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2215 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] According to XINHUA News Agency, Chinese President Jiang Zemin received Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and vice president, in Beijing on 28 September.

At the meeting, Vice President Yi Chong-ok first conveyed greetings from the WPK, the government, and the people to the Communist Party of China, the Chinese Government, and the people on the Chinese national day. Also, he conveyed greetings from the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Jiang Zemin.

Vice President Yi Chong-ok stated that our people will continue to make efforts to develop DPRK-PRC friendship under Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership, upholding President Kim Il-song's intent during his lifetime, saying: "DPRK-PRC friendship has overcome the trial of history. The DPRK's consistent policy is to further strengthen and develop friendship."

Also, Vice President Yi Chong-ok sincerely wished the Chinese people new successes in their cause for the socialist construction with Chinese characteristics under the leadership of the CPC led by General Secretary Jiang Zemin.

At the meeting, President Jiang Zemin stated the following: The strong friendship [tutoun chinson] has been forged between the leaders and people of the PRC and DPRK. President Kim Il-song's death is a great loss of the DPRK, and we are very sad [pitong hada] as well. We are convinced that the DPRK people will more properly construct their fatherland under the leadership of the WPK headed by Comrade Kim Chong-il [Kim Chong-il tongjilul subanuro hanun], inheriting President Kim Il-song's cause. Also, President Jiang Zemin asked Vice President Yi Chong-ok to convey his greetings to Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Regarding the Korean peninsula issue, President Jiang Zemin stated the following: The PRC position is clear, as well as consistent. The PRC hopes that peace and stability can be maintained on the Korean peninsula. The PRC supports denuclearization on the Korean peninsula and agrees to the settlement of the ongoing issues on the Korean peninsula through peaceful dialogue [pyonghwachogin taehwalul tonghayo choson pandoui yuguhan munjedullul haegyol hanun kosul chasonghada].

After the meeting, President Jiang Zemin arranged a banquet for Vice President Yi Chong-ok and his entourage. Zhu Shanqing, deputy head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee; Wang Yingfan, assistant to the minister of the PRC Foreign Ministry; and Chu Chang-chun, our country's ambassador to China, attended the meeting and the banquet.

Meets WPK, Government Delegation

SK3009105594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Beijing, September 29 (KCNA)—Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and president of the People's Republic of China, met with a party and government delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea headed by Comrade Yi Chong-ok, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president, in Beijing on September 29.

On the occasion the head of the delegation conveyed greetings of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to Comrade Jiang Zemin. Comrade Jiang Zemin expressed deep thanks for this and asked the head of the delegation to convey his best regards to Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He said he was much pleased with the China visit of the Korean party and government delegation to participate in the celebrations of the 45th founding anniversary of the PRC. This fully demonstrates that the relations between China and Korea are not ordinary relations, but are special relations sealed in blood, he added.

He said there is profound friendship between the leaders and peoples of China and the DPRK.

The passing away of President Kim Il-song is a great loss to the Korean people, he noted.

He recalled with deep emotion President Kim Il-song's visit to China and his meeting with President Kim Il-song during his visit to Korea.

He expressed the belief that, though President Kim Il-song passed away, the Korean people, united closely around the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Comrade Kim Chong-il, will do all work more successfully and build their country better.

He said he was grateful to Comrade Kim Chong-il for having sent a party and government delegation on the national day of China.

Jiang said that China's stand on the Korean issue "is clear and consistent", that China hopes that peace and stability will be maintained on the Korean peninsula, supports the denuclearisation of the region and calls for the solution of the problems of the Korean peninsula through peaceful dialogue.

The talk proceeded in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

After the meeting, Jiang gave a banquet in honor of the delegation.

WPK, Central Committee Congratulate PRC

SK3009095394 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0600 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] The Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and the DPRK Central People's Committee sent a congratulatory message to the PRC's party and state leaders on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of its founding.

The congratulatory message is as follows:

Beijing.
To Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and president of the PRC, and Comrade Qiao Shi, chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress:

On the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the founding of the PRC, the WPK Central Committee and the DPRK Central People's Committee send the most enthusiastic congratulations to you and through you to the CPC Central Committee, the PRC Government, and the Chinese people.

The founding of the PRC was an epoch-making event producing a fundamental turning point in the long history of the Chinese people. During the past 45 years since the founding of the republic, and under the correct leadership of the CPC, the Chinese people have manifested the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, thus overcoming the difficulties and trials they faced and achieving great progress in the struggle to build a new socialist China.

Today, the Chinese people are firmly uniting around the CPC with Comrade Jiang Zemin as the core, and are actively making efforts to realize the country's modernization and to build socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The PRC carried out an independent and peace-loving foreign policy, thus strengthening the country's international status. The DPRK people are truly happy about the results made by the Chinese people, and are sending solidarity in your cause for the country's unification.

Through this opportunity, we truly hope you will implement the decisions made at the 14th congress of the CPC, and there will be greater results in your and the Chinese people's struggle to achieve the country's prosperity.

The DPRK and the PRC are friendly neighbors, which mountains and rivers link together. DPRK-PRC friendship is a lofty friendship provided and developed by the leaders [yongdoja] of the two countries; it is a consolidated friendship that overcame all kinds of trials.

Developing generation after generation the traditional DPRK-PRC friendly and cooperative relations, which have long historical roots, is a consistent desire of the people of our two countries. The DPRK-PRC friendship, formed through blood ties, will continue to strengthen and develop through the joint efforts of the two parties, two countries, and two people.

[Signed] WPK Central Committee, the DPRK Central People's Committee
[Dated] 30 September 1994, Pyongyang

KCNA Version of Greetings

SK3009105194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 30 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Central People's Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of felicitations today to Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and president of the People's Republic of China (PRC), and Qiao Shi, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC, on the 45th anniversary of the founding of the PRC.

The message notes that over the past 45 years since the founding of the PRC, the Chinese people under the correct leadership of the Communist Party of China have made a great progress in the efforts to build a socialist new China, pushing the way through difficulties and trials in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard work.

Today the Chinese people closely rallied around the Communist Party of China with Comrade Jiang Zemin at the core are making energetic efforts to achieve the modernisation of the country and build socialism with Chinese characteristics, the message says, adding: The Korean people sincerely rejoice over the achievements of the Chinese people and express solidarity with them in the cause of the reunification of the country.

The message wishes the leaders and people of China greater success in the efforts to implement the resolution of the 14th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and achieve the prosperity of the country.

Korea-China friendship is a precious one which was provided and developed jointly by the leaders of the two countries and a solid one which has withstood all trials, the message says, expressing the belief that this blood-sealed friendship will continue to be strengthened and developed by the joint efforts of the two parties, two countries and two peoples.

Kim Yong-nam Attends PRC Founding Day Banquet

SK3009130594 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] On 29 September, on the 45th anniversary of the founding of the PRC, the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and the Central Committee of the Korea-China Friendship Association hosted a banquet at the People's Palace of Culture.

Qiao Zonghuai, PRC ambassador to our country; officials of the PRC Embassy; and Chinese currently visiting our country were invited to the banquet.

Present at the banquet were Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and foreign minister; Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Kim Kwang-chin, vice marshal of the Korean People's Army; Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK]; Vice Premier Chang Chol; Im Sung-pil, director of a department of the WPK Central Committee; Vice Foreign Minister Cho Kyu-il; and other functionaries concerned.

Vice Premier Chang Chol made a speech. He said the Chinese people persistently waged a long struggle against imperialists and antireactionary forces at home under the leadership of the CPC. Thus, they achieved great success, founding the PRC, the people's true country, on 1 October 1949. He said this incident was a great turning point that opened a new era in the long history of the Chinese people, and an important event which greatly influenced the development of the situation in Asia and the rest of the world.

The vice premier pointed out that, after founding the PRC, the Chinese people displayed the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle under the leadership of the CPC, and have overcome trials and hardships, thus erecting a new, prosperous socialist China on the mainland. He noted that the Chinese people are making great achievements in promoting the stability and unity of the entire country, in accelerating the modernization of the country, in building socialism with Chinese characteristics, and in heartily responding to the tasks set by the 14th national party congress.

Chang Chol added: We sincerely rejoice over the achievements made by the Chinese people as our own, and wish them greater achievements in their efforts for socialist modernization and reunification of the entire country.

Chang Chol said respected Comrades Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, other leaders of the Chinese party and state, as well as numerous Chinese figures, sent condolence messages and wreaths on the occasion of the death of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song, and visited our country's embassy in the PRC to express condolences and share in the sorrow. This shows DPRK-PRC relations are special, he emphasized, and that the people of the two countries are linked as one.

Noting that DPRK-PRC friendship is a friendship established and nursed by the leaders of the two countries long ago, and a friendship which has withstood all the tests of history, he declared it the consistent stand of our government to deepen and continue to develop the friendship and solidarity between the DPRK and the PRC.

Stressing that our people will exert every effort to further develop DPRK-PRC relations, Chang Chol said he believes DPRK-PRC relations forged during the struggle to achieve their joint cause will be endlessly consolidated and strengthened for generations.

Qiao Zonghuai, Chinese ambassador to the DPRK, spoke next. He spoke about the Korean people's construction of a strong socialist country by holding firm to independence, self-reliance, and the revolutionary spirit of self-struggle under the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the WPK.

Today, the Korean people are constantly effecting a new upsurge in various domains of socialist construction to realize comrade President Kim Il-song's lifetime intentions and to carry out the revolutionary economic strategy, closely united around the party Central Committee headed by Comrade Kim Chong-il, he noted. Qiao said he sincerely wished the Korean people greater achievements in their efforts to attain the economic, strategic goal of the adjustment period as set by the party.

Qiao stressed that the Chinese party and Government both support the Korean people's efforts to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country. Saying the PRC earnestly hopes the DPRK-U.S. talks will make progress, and the situation on the Korean peninsula will be relaxed and stabilized, Qiao stated that this not only coincides with the interests of the Korean nation, but is also beneficial to protecting the peace and stability of Asia and the rest of the world.

Qiao said he believes the day of reunification, the Korean people's ardent hope, is destined to arrive; all pending issues, including the nuclear issue, will be smoothly settled with the strenuous efforts of the Korean party and Government, and through sincere dialogue and negotiations among the countries concerned.

The PRC-DPRK friendship was established and nursed by Chairman Mao Zedong; Premier Zhou Enlai; Deng Xiaoping, the great leader of the Chinese people; and President Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people. Qiao added that people of both countries have pushed ahead the development of relations of cooperation and friendship by mutually supporting and cooperating with each other in the course of building socialism.

Qiao emphasized the party and Government of the PRC value this friendship, and will make every possible effort to constantly strengthen and develop the PRC-DPRK friendship, no matter how the international situation may change in the future.

The participants in the banquet toasted traditional DPRK-PRC friendship and unity, which have been forged with blood, calling for the eternal life of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song; for the long life of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people; and for the long life of respected Comrades Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, and other leaders of the Chinese party and state.

KCNA Reports on Banquet Details

SK3009050494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 30 (KCNA)—The Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and the Central Committee of the Korea-China Friendship Association hosted a banquet at the People's Palace of Culture on September 29 on the 45th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Invited to the banquet were officials of the Chinese Embassy in Pyongyang and Chinese visitors to Korea.

Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Yang Hyong-sop, vice marshal of the Korean People's Army Kim Kwang-chin and officials concerned were present.

Vice-premier Chang Chol made a speech at the banquet.

He said that the founding of the People's Republic of China was a great turn that opened a new era in the long history of the Chinese people and an important event which had a great influence on the development of the situation in Asia and the rest of the world.

"Today the Chinese people are making great achievements in the work to promote the stability and unity of the whole country, accelerate the modernisation of the country and build socialism with Chinese characteristics, in hearty response to the tasks set by the 14th national congress of the party," he noted, adding:

"We sincerely rejoice over the achievements made by the Chinese people as over their own."

He wished them greater achievements in their efforts for socialist modernisation and reunification of the whole country.

Noting that Korea-China friendship is friendship which was established and nursed by the leaders of the two countries long ago and a friendship which has withstood all the tests of history, he declared that it is a consistent stand of the DPRK Government to deepen and continue to develop the friendship and solidarity between Korea and China.

He expressed the belief that Korea-China friendship forged in the struggle to accomplish the common cause will constantly be strengthened and developed through generations by the efforts of the two parties, two countries and two peoples.

Speaking next, Chinese Ambassador to Korea Qiao Zonghuai said that today the Korean people are constantly effecting a new upswing in different domains of the socialist construction to realize what Comrade President Kim Il-song intended in his lifetime and carry out the revolutionary economic strategy, closely united around the party Central Committee headed by Comrade Kim Chong-il. He sincerely wished the Korean people greater achievements in the efforts to attain the economic strategic goal of the adjustment period set by the party.

"The party and government of China support the Korean people in their efforts to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country," he stated, and added:

"China earnestly hopes that the DPRK-U.S. talks will make a progress and the situation on the Korean peninsula be relaxed and stabilized.

"Sino-Korean friendship was established and nursed by the great leader of the Chinese people Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping and the great leader of the Korean people comrade President Kim Il-song.

"The party and Government of China value this friendship and will make every effort possible to constantly strengthen and develop Sino-Korean friendship, no matter how the international situation may change in the future."

Korea-PRC Friendship Cooperative Farm Viewed

SK3009103694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 30 (KCNA)—The Taegam Cooperative Farm is 30 kilometers away from the capital city of Pyongyang.

Countless are beautiful stories of Korea-China friendship on the farm which has forged friendly relations with the Hongxing People's Commune in Beijing.

The great leader President Kim Il-song said:

"No force on earth can destroy the great friendship between the Korean and Chinese peoples, which was sealed in blood in the flames of the arduous revolutionary struggle and has withstood all the trials of history."

It was in May 1953 when the just fatherland liberation war of the Korean people had entered the final stage.

Driven into a blind alley by a strong strike of the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers [CPV], the U.S. imperialist aggressors made indiscriminate bombing raids on peaceful towns and countryside in their last-ditch efforts. The Kyonyong Reservoir in Taegam-ri was heavily destroyed, its water sweeping villages and paddy and non-paddy fields in a moment. The CPV fighters stationed there in those days rescued the lives and properties of the Koreans from the [words indistinct] the cost of their lives and rehabilitated the reservoir.

The farmers there reap bumper crops every year with the water of the reservoir imbued with Korea-China friendship. The local people erected a monument on the side of the reservoir to convey long the internationalist spirit displayed by Chinese comrades-in-arms.

Esteemed Comrade Zhou Enlai, a close friend of the Korean people, visited the farm on February 19, 1958. Going round the farm he highly estimated its fast development and encouraged the farmers to achieve greater achievements in their future work.

Still now many Chinese guests call at the farm and encourage the farmers in their innovations in agricultural production, helping them in their farming work. In recent years alone, more than 100 delegations from China inspected the farm. Witnessing the development of the farm, they sincerely rejoiced over it, saying that it is a [words indistinct] of the successful realization of the programme of the building of the socialist countryside put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song. And they said that, visiting the farm, they felt as if they were calling at the house of their brother and that Korea-China friendship sealed in blood would be everlasting. The Korea-China Friendship Taegam Cooperative Farm and the Sino-Korean Friendship Hongxing People's Commune are now swapping good experiences with each other.

Recorded on the Taegam Cooperative Farm are a long list of leadership feats of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

President Kim Il-song visited the farm nine times from 1954, clearly indicated the road ahead of the farm including the laying of a solid economic foundation of it and the improvement of the living standard of the farmers by developing diversified farming and kindly led the farm in each stage of the developing revolution.

Under his wise guidance, the farm has been turned into a modern socialist countryside with a developed diversified farming, which is good to work and live in. Irrigation and electrification have been completed and comprehensive mechanisation and extensive use of chemicals has reached a high level. The farm has 50 tractors and trucks and more than 250 trailing farm machines of all kinds. One of every three farmers is an engineer or associate engineer or expert.

With the chuche method of farming strictly applied, agricultural products including grain, fruit and vegetable, and meat has increased every year, showing an average growth rate of 60 percent in ten years.

A house of culture, schools, nurseries, kindergartens, the Yi People's Hospital, a shop, a restaurant and other educational, cultural and public service facilities are available and neat multi-storeyed dwelling houses are standing in rows at the foot of the hill. The village of the farm resembles a picture.

Cha Tu-hyok, chairman of the Management Board of the farm, said that they will in the future build the farm into a more wonderful paradise and contribute to further deepening the feelings of friendship with the Chinese people. He extended militant greetings to the people and the members of the Hongxing People's Commune of China on the 45th anniversary of their national day.

'Illegal' Search of Chongnyon in Japan Viewed

SK3009051894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 30 Sep 94

["Apology and Punishment of Chief Culprits Demanded"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 30 (KCNA)—Since the search of the Kyoto Prefectural headquarters of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and houses of Chongnyon officials turned out to have been illegal, the Japanese authorities must make a full apology for it and sternly punish the chief culprits, urges MINJU CHOSON in a commentary today.

The analyst says:

Till today when nearly four months have lapsed after the incident, they have not punished the chief culprits, but decided to shelve the punishment. This is an act of patronizing and defending the criminals and, in fact, an extension of the reckless suppression of Chongnyon and an expression of a hostile policy against our republic.

The recent crackdown on the Chongnyon organisation by the Japanese reactionaries, including the search of the Kyoto Prefectural headquarters of Chongnyon, can never be hushed up.

If the Japanese reactionary authorities think that they can get scot-free [as received] after provoking Chongnyon and Koreans in Japan, it is a big mistake.

We will never allow anyone to provoke Chongnyon, a dignified organisation of overseas Koreans of our republic, and Koreans in Japan.

Hwang Chang-yop Meets Visiting Japanese Groups

SK3009043994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0405 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 30 (KCNA)—Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Thursday met and had a friendly conversation with the delegation of the Japan Regional Solidarity Organization for Supporting the Reunification of Korea headed by Akira Iwai, chairman of the Japan Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea.

The head of the delegation expressed the hope that Korean-style socialism based on the chuche idea will further develop and his excellency Kim Chong-il, the supreme leader of the Korean people, will enjoy a long life in good health.

WPK Sends Congratulations to Jamaican Party

SK3009110094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1049 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 30 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] sent a message of greetings September 26 to P.J. Patterson on his reelection as president of the People's National Party of Jamaica.

The message described his reelection as an expression of the party members' trust in him and wished him and his party success in the work for the prosperity of the country.

Burundian Group Pledges Support to Kim Chong-il

SK3009104494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 30 (KCNA)—The Burundian Group for the Study of the Chuche Idea supported the appeal of the Asian Regional Institute of the Chuche Idea [ARIJI] calling for more actively disseminating and studying the chuche idea.

The group in a statement September 21 fully approved and supported the appeal of the ARIJI with one mind to change the grief at the loss of his excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song, the founder of the chuche idea, into strength and courage, and to hold his excellency dear Kim Chong-il, a brilliant successor to the chuche idea, forever in high esteem.

The statement said:

At this moment of victory when the followers of the chuche idea are forming steel-like ranks in all countries of the world, we can proudly say that February 16 will be celebrated as the "day of chuche" forever, yesterday, today and tomorrow, both nominally and virtually. Rise or fall of the cause of making the whole world independent depends on how to defend the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the motherland of chuche where there is his excellency dear Kim Chong-il.

We will fully discharge our honorable duty as internationalist soldiers who support and defend the socialist cause of the DPRK and the cause of its independent and peaceful reunification.

Kim Chong-il's Slogan for Kim Il-song Reported

SK3009100794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT 30 Sep 94

["Revolutionary Slogan Reflecting Unanimous Desire and Will of Entire People"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 30 (KCNA)—"The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song will always be with us", a slogan set forth by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, is a revolutionary slogan carrying the unanimous aspiration and desire of the whole party and the entire people and it is a militant banner powerfully encouraging them to a struggle for the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche started by the great leader, declares NODONG SINMUN today.

It quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song forever is the noble duty of Korean communists and is based on their invariable revolutionary conviction."

Reflected in the slogan are the unanimous aspiration and desire of the Korean people and progressive humankind to hold the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song forever in high esteem.

In a signed article the paper says:

The slogan "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song will always be with us" is, above all, based on the unshakable faith of the people who deeply understand the greatness of the leader, the great man peerless in human history.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was possessed of distinguished ideological and theoretical wisdom, outstanding leadership ability and noble communistic virtues as his natural gifts befitting a leader of the working class and performed immortal exploits which would shine forever in history.

He will remain always in the hearts of the people because his idea and exploits are great.

The slogan is also a noble embodiment of the unbreakable blood ties between the leader and the people.

The great leader regarded "believing in the people as in heaven" as his constant view and maxim in his early years and made a long and long journey of revolution by the train for the people and devoted his soul and heart to their happiness until the last moments of his life.

That is why the Korean people entrusted all their destinies entirely to him, with a firm faith in him as the defender of their fate and as their benevolent father, and remained intensely loyal and filial to him.

The slogan also fully reflects the unshakable will of the Korean people to set up a stronger mental pillar and make a dynamic advance under the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

It is the rockfirm belief deeply rooted in the hearts of the Korean people through many years of struggle that when they struggle, regarding the great leader as their mental pillar, they can turn adversity into favourable conditions, misfortune into a bliss and win by fighting like an immortal.

This creed will never change, however much water may flow under the bridge and however far the revolution may advance.

Documentary on Kim Il-song Shown at Festival

SK3009103994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Spelling of all names as received]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 30 (KCNA)—The participants in the Fourth Pyongyang Film Festival of Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries on September 28 saw the Korean documentary film "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Is Immortal" with deep emotion.

Through scenes of people paying their last respects to the great leader President Kim Il-song the film shows in a grand epical canvas that he will shine as the eternal sun in the hearts of the Korean people and humankind because he was absolutely trusted and revered by all peoples.

After seeing the film Khalil Abd el-Moneim, director of the Festival Department of the National Film Centre of Egypt, said there were many leaders in every country of the world, but in no country, when they passed away, the whole people turned out and wailed in bitter grief over the death of their leaders as the Korean people did.

Appraising the film as a flawless one showing the looks of the Korean people who worked for the prosperity and development of the country, single-heartedly unified around President Kim Il-song, he hoped that the reunification of Korea would be realized in a short time under the wise leadership of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Hong Kong Delegate Wang Xinkuk noted that the death of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song brought sorrow to the world revolutionary people because he was a great man who performed immortal exploits not only for the Korean revolution but also for the cause of global independence and it is, indeed, a big loss of the world.

Though the sorrow and loss are immeasurable, the Korean people are accelerating socialist construction with strength and courage as they have dear comrade Kim Chong-il as their great leader, he stressed, and added: The Korean people will certainly accomplish the revolutionary cause of their leader.

Pointing out that the respected leader President Kim Il-song was the great statesman, Djasur Ishakov, member of the International Jury of the festival, expressed his belief that the Korean people will achieve national reunification without fail, upholding his behests.

South Korea

U.S.-DPRK Geneva High-Level Talks Recess

SK3009012794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0100 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 30 (YONHAP)—The United States and North Korea completed a week of high-level talks Thursday with little progress to show on Pyongyang's suspected nuclear arms program, but are likely to hold a chief delegates' meeting as early as next Wednesday.

Diplomatic sources here predicted the forthcoming meeting, to follow working-level officials' talks in the coming days, will bring together U.S. chief delegate Robert Gallucci and his North Korean counterpart Kang Sok-chu.

On Thursday the chief delegates, accompanied by one official apiece, held a two-hour meeting from 10 A.M. at the American representative mission.

Details of the talks were not immediately known, but sources here said they failed to narrow their differences on reaching an accord to settle the North Korean nuclear problem.

After the meeting, Assistant Secretary of State Gallucci, who is also ambassador-at-large, said at a press conference that he would fly to Washington on Friday with some members of the U.S. delegation and return to Geneva to resume the talks after consultations with his home government.

Gallucci added, however, that working-level meetings would continue in the coming days until he returned to this Swiss city.

Defining the week-long talks with North Korea as practical and businesslike with the two sides sounding out each other's position, Gallucci disclosed that the most salient issues were the disposition of spent fuel rods taken from the North's Yongbyon reactor and the 5-megawatt unit's future, and special inspections of the communist state's nuclear facilities.

He said that in general no substantial progress had been made.

Earlier in the day, North Korean chief delegate Kang, who is also first vice foreign minister, told reporters that working officials have much to discuss on the provision of light-water nuclear reactors to the North and freezing the construction of its graphite- moderated units.

He disclosed that the current second session of the third round of high-level talks had yet ended. "It's only a recess," he said. "I will stay in Geneva with the other North Korean delegates."

Diplomatic sources close to the talks said no headway was made because their respective positions had not changed.

'Sources': DPRK Will Not Reload Fuel Rods

SK3009074994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0741 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] New York, Sept. 29 (YONHAP)—North Korea has backed off from earlier threats to reload fuel into its one working nuclear reactor, sources here said Friday [30 September].

This suggests an opening still exists for a last-minute breakthrough in nuclear talks that have been disappointing in their lack of progress.

North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu, chief delegate to the high-level nuclear negotiations with the United States in Geneva, told his American counterpart Robert Gallucci at Thursday's session that his country will not be reloading fuel into the 5- megawatt reactor, the sources said.

North Korea, while still insisting on dry storage of the 8,000 fuel rods taken from the reactor, hinted it may turn them over to a third country, they said.

The Geneva dialogue has continued for a week with both sides remaining stiff and uncompromising on special inspections, handover of the fuel rods, selection of South Korea's light-water reactor model and resumption of inter-Korean dialogue.

The two sides have decided to take a break and resume the talks early next month. Working-level officials are to stay behind and continue negotiating.

"The fact that the United States and North Korea did not break off the talks despite such differences signals a chance of a last- minute breakthrough," said one source. "The two sides agreed that they should not break off the negotiations."

"The United States decided to continue dialogue with North Korea because it indirectly confirmed North Korea's intention not to reload fuel," the source said.

He went on to say that the two delegations will probably consult their respective governments on what they can announce to the outside world.

Chang Chae-yong, the South Korean Foreign Ministry's director- general, will fly to New York from Geneva where he has been monitoring the nuclear negotiations to report the results to Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, already in the American city to attend the 49th General Assembly session.

Han plans to meet with Gallucci early next month to consult on the nuclear problem.

Han: DPRK Nuclear 'Game' Test of Its Future

SK3009084894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0839 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Embargoed by YONHAP until 0330 GMT 1 October]

[Text] New York, Sept. 30 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu urged North Korea Friday [30 September] to open its eyes to the post-cold war era, calling Pyongyang's nuclear game a test of its future.

"The ultimate resolution of the North Korean nuclear problem depends on the will of the new leadership in Pyongyang to associate itself with the forces of history, which may involve a change in its way of thinking," Han said in a speech to the Asia Society here.

"How the new leadership of North Korea deals with the nuclear issue will provide a test case, and have far-reaching implications for the future relationship between the two Koreas."

The foreign minister called for new thinking by both sides of Korea and freedom from confrontation. "We must free ourselves from a Cold War mentality preoccupied with inter-Korean rivalry and confrontation, and view inter-Korean relations from a broader perspective both in terms of time and space," he said.

While predicting the transfer of power in Pyongyang to heir- apparent Kim Chong-il would come off as expected, Han foresaw a "Catch 22 situation."

"Pyongyang has to decide whether to open up its society and thereby risk 'contamination,' or to remain closed and continue to fall behind," said Han.

There is still momentum for dialogue in trying to resolve the nuclear dispute, he declared. "We must take advantage of the momentum and give dialogue a chance."

White Paper: DPRK Outpaces South Militarily

SK3009101294 Seoul YONHAP in English 1005 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 30 (YONHAP)—North Korea continues building up arms in an unchanging bid to bring the South under its communist domain by force of arms, the Defense Ministry reported Friday [30 September].

"Defense White Paper 1994-'95" released by the ministry said North Korea maintains 1.6 times more military manpower than South Korea and two times as much hardware.

The white paper said about 65 percent of North Korean ground forces are deployed in the forward area South of the Pyongyang- Wonsan line.

Besides, it said, North Korea has successfully test-fired "Nodong No. 1 missile" with a range of 1,000km and is able to produce 100 to 150 SCUD missiles a year.

The white paper said North Korean military manpower now stands at 1,030,000 whereas South Korea has a total of 655,000 troops in the three services.

The North Korean military strength include 900,000 ground troops, 46,000 naval forces and 84,000 air force personnel. The South's total comprises 540,000 ground forces, 60,000 naval people and 55,000 air force personnel.

Last year, North Korea reorganized the outfits of its ground forces, increasing the number of army corps from 17 to 18. Their army divisions now total 53 and brigades 99.

South Korea has 11 corps consisting of 50 army and marine divisions and 21 brigades.

In hardware, North Korea produced 500 more field guns last year to increase the total from 10,300 to 10,800. Their tanks and armored personnel carriers number 3,800 and 2,500, respectively, it said.

In contrast, South Korea has 4,600 field guns, 1,950 tanks and 2,100 armored personnel carriers, it said.

In naval forces, North Korea commissioned 26 war vessels last year to bring to 460 the total of their war ships. The number of its support vessels increased from 310 to 320 and submarines total 26, the white paper said.

South Korean naval vessels, it said, include 190 war ships, 60 support vessels and two submarines.

The North Korean Air Force is equipped with 1,330 airplanes—850 tactical planes and 480 support planes—and 290 helicopters, compared with the South's 520 tactical planes, 180 support planes and 620 helicopters.

The North Korean airplanes include such up-to-date models as MiG- 29 fighters, Su-25 fighters and Il-28 bombers.

The white paper went on to say that North Korea is believed to have dug or been digging about 20 tunnels across the demilitarized zone in addition to the four already uncovered.

As for nuclear arms development, the white paper said North Korea tested high explosives about 70 times in the 1980s to secure the ability to produce nuclear weapons.

North Korea is believed to possess nuclear materials but it is not clear if they had produced nuclear arms, the white paper said.

More Analysis of DPRK 'Real' Power Structure

SK3009032494 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 30 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] According to a government official on 29 September, it is very likely that hard-line conservative forces, including military circles, have grasped real power in North Korea since Kim Il-song's death and are now assuming their leadership in making policies on foreign affairs and on the South.

In particular, the government believes that it is highly possible that the U.S.-North Korean nuclear talks being held in Geneva face difficulties because the hard-liners in North Korea's military circles are putting the brake on the talks.

Regarding this, the government official stated: "At a time when Kim Chong-il's succession to power has yet to be completed, the Workers Party of Korea Political Bureau seems to be the center of the North Korean power structure. Also, it seems that in the course of the Political Bureau emerging to be the center of power, the voices of hard-liners in the Army and the party have become louder."

The government official said it seems that North Korea has made important policy decisions at meetings of the party Political Bureau composed of core personnel of the North Korean regime since Kye Ung- tae, secretary in charge of security, urged people to "firmly unite around the party centered around Kim Chong-il" at a ceremony commemorating the 20th anniversary of the publishing of Kim Chong- il's work on 28 August. The government official then mentioned the possibility that the North Korean power structure will set to be a so-called "party-oriented ruling system."

While mentioning North Korea's influential group, he stated: "In view of the intrinsic nature of a closed system, it is natural that the military circles, which seize armed forces, and offices in charge of security are influential in a transition period." He predicts that the influential group of the North Korean People's Army [KPA]—including Choe Kwang, chief of the General Staff of the KPA; Kim Kwang-chin and Kim Pong-yul, vice ministers of People's Armed Forces; Kim Ik-hyon, member of the Military Commission of the party Central Committee; and Paek Hak-nim, minister of public security; and Kye Ung-tae, secretary in charge of security—whose activities have recently become distinguished, will become powerful. In particular, many of KPA vice marshals, including Kim Ik-hyon, who ranked between 43d and 79th in the list of the state funeral committee members released right after Kim Il-song's death, have ranked above party Secretary Kim Ki-nam, whose ranking No. is 24, in various meetings held later. It has been learned that the ROK Government authorities, accordingly, have carefully watched their moves.

DPRK, Japan Reportedly Held Secret Contacts

SK3009054194 Seoul MUNHWA ILBO in Korean 30 Sep 94 p 2

[Text] It has been revealed that while U.S.-North Korean talks were being held, North Korea and Japan actively held secret contacts to resolve the nuclear issue and to improve relations between the two countries.

On 30 September, a ranking government official who asked not to be identified stated: "North Korea and Japan held five secret contacts in New York and Geneva in August to discuss the resumption of talks on establishing diplomatic relations after Kim Il-song's death."

He also stated: "Japan's Murayama Cabinet and the United States both share a strategical assessment that recognizes two Koreas. According to this strategy, Japan considers the improvement of relations with North Korea to be the primary goal of its diplomacy in Southeast Asia and is concentrating diplomatic efforts to achieve this goal."

The official then added: "North Korea's intensive denunciation of Japan's inactive attitude in reflecting on its past wrongdoings is aimed at having an advantage in negotiations over Japan's post- war compensation, the point at issue.

Minister: DPRK Unlikely To Repeal Armistice

SK3009014494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0110 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 30 (YONHAP)—Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae says the chances of North Korea unilaterally repealing the Korean War Armistice Agreement at the present stage are "slim," citing the North's shaky domestic situation, the South Korea-U.S. defense alliance and the international situation surrounding the Korean peninsula.

He made the observation when asked about North Korea's scheme to neutralize the truce pact during parliamentary inspection of the Defense Ministry Thursday.

"Because North Korea's one-sided abrogation of the Armistice Agreement would mean a reversal to the pre-truce state—that is, a state of war—and the scrapping of war deterrence mechanisms, the North Koreans would hardly venture such a risk unless they were determined to wage an all-out war," Yi said.

To prepare for the worst-case scenario, however, the Defense Ministry is steadily improving the joint ROK-U.S. defense posture while studying and developing diplomatic measures against Pyongyang's possible denunciation of the truce regime.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Kim Tong-chin, asked to comment on military discipline, said the Army would initiate special programs designed to improve "intangible forces" as much as tangible forces.

Official Urges DPRK To Restore Mutual Trust

SK3009005094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0011 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 30 (YONHAP)—North Korea sent a letter to the United Nations Security Council demanding the conclusion of a peace accord between the United States and the North on Sept. 24, when the current round of Washington-Pyongyang nuclear talks resumed in Geneva, a Foreign Ministry official said Thursday.

North Korea has routinely submitted such letters to the world body prior to the opening of the U.N. General Assembly session "in a bid to invalidate the Korean Military Armistice Agreement," according to the official.

He found no connection between Pyongyang's latest letter and the U.S.-North Korea high-level nuclear talks currently in session in Geneva.

Noting that South Korea also desires to see the present armistice regime replaced by a peace treaty, the official urged North Korea to "first take specific steps for the restoration of mutual trust" on the Korean peninsula.

Inter-Korean Meteorological Exchange Planned

SK3009085594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0812 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 30 (YONHAP)—The Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) is pushing ahead with cooperation with North Korea to achieve more accurate weather forecasting, Administrator Pong Chong-hon said Friday [30 September].

During a National Assembly inspection, Pong said, "The KMA plans to propose to North Korean representatives ways of inter-Korean meteorological cooperation at the 27th Typhoon Committee (TC) slated for December in Macao."

The administrator revealed that the KMA sounded out Pyongyang on meteorological cooperation at a WMO (World Meteorological Organization) workshop for directors of the National Meteorological Service of the Asia and Pacific Region held in China last month.

"The North, however, replied that cooperation in the meteorological field will naturally expand once inter-Korean relations are established according to the Agreement on Reconciliation, Non-Aggression and Exchanges and Cooperation, which was signed on Dec. 13, 1991, between Seoul and Pyongyang," Pong said.

"The two Koreas have shared information through an indirect exchange of meteorological observations and upper observation data through the Global Telecommunication System (GTS) in Beijing and Tokyo," he said. "The KMA submitted concrete ways of cooperation to the National Unification Board (NUB) as an agenda for the aborted inter-Korean summit scheduled in July."

He disclosed the KMA plans to exchange weather information and research reports and build a meteorological communications network between Seoul and Pyongyang through 1997 as a first step, and to construct a unified Korean meteorological system through exchanges of weather experts and joint research into 2001 as a second step.

U.S. Reportedly Asks 'Part' of Cash for DPRK

SK3009010494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0030 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 30 (YONHAP)—The United States has asked South Korea if it would pitch in part of the 2 billion U.S. dollars North Korea is demanding in exchange for freezing its nuclear program, the ASAHI SHIMBUN reported from Seoul Friday.

Quoting diplomatic sources, the Japanese daily said North Korea is putting more weight on economic issues than on the nuclear dispute at the ongoing high-level talks with the United States in Geneva.

Pyongyang reportedly demanded 2 billion dollars in cash to compensate for the money it claims to have already spent building its graphite-moderated nuclear reactors. Washington is trying to arrange an international aid package to replace those reactors with more advanced and easily monitored light-water models.

North Korea is demanding cash for an interim energy supply as well during the reactor conversion period, which the United States is also trying to arrange, rather than crude oil or other material support, the sources were quoted as saying.

These matters are beyond the authority of U.S. chief delegate Robert Gallucci, which is why the Geneva talks have showed a tendency to go beyond their bounds.

The United States has for now rejected North Korea's demand for cash, ASAHI said.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, currently visiting the United Nations, will consult with the U.S. and Japanese Governments on North Korea's changed negotiating style which places more emphasis on economic issues, the sources said.

U.S. Demand for More Defense Expenses Criticized

SK3009122794 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 30 Sep 94 p 3

[Editorial: "Unreasonable Demands for Increasing the Expense- Sharing of U.S. Forces in South Korea"]

[Text] Although there have been voices calling for the withdrawal of U.S. forces in South Korea, we do not deny the presence of these forces in South Korea has contributed to deterring war on the peninsula. The cries of "Yankee Go Home," which can be heard everywhere in the world, can be heard here as well. However, the echoes of these cries do not spread seriously because the danger of war still exists.

This notwithstanding, today we still see riot police patrolling near U.S. military camps. Thus, our sentiments toward the U.S. forces in South Korea are complicated. In addition, there have also been many cases in which the behavior and attitudes of U.S. soldiers has incurred our people's hatred. Our lawmakers have noted some recent cases during a state affairs inspection panel in the National Assembly.

Our expense-sharing burden for U.S. forces in South Korea has increased unreasonably each year; it is an old and protracted issue still pending between the two countries.

As admitted by the U.S. secretary of defense to Congress, South Korea has paid the highest share among those countries in which U.S. forces are stationed; it has paid more of the expenses for U.S. forces than has Japan and Germany, which are rich countries.

The sites and facilities provided by the ROK Government for use by the U.S. military, the manpower and logistical support provided by our government, and our government's provision of special favors in reducing various kinds of taxes and of discounting various kinds of public fares for U.S. forces in South Korea, totals as much as $2 billion annually. In addition, according to an odd agreement concluded with the United States in which the ROK Government supports one third of the expenses U.S. forces in Korea must pay in Korean currency, South Korea had to pay $260 million last year alone. This figure is five times the $45 million South Korea paid in 1989, five years ago. According to U.S. statistics, South Korea bore 78 percent of the expenses for U.S. forces in South Korea in 1993.

U.S. forces in South Korea can withdraw from here at any time whenever the United States feels it necessary to do so; South Korea's needs are but a secondary consideration.

With the passage of the Nunn-Warner Bill in the U.S. Congress in 1989, U.S. forces in South Korea are to be reduced in a phased manner, and accordingly the function that U.S. forces in South Korea assumed has been gradually transferred to the ROK Armed Forces. This is well-known.

Such being the case, the United States has started pushing ahead with reductions in its ground forces, which would be involved in a war in Korea in case of emergency, while attempting to assume only naval and air force roles.

During an inspection panel at the National Assembly, lawmakers expressed concern that under such a situation, the ROK Armed Forces cannot have a well-balanced military power, and that the ROK Navy and Air Force will face difficulties in immediately counterattacking during the initial stages of a war.

The logic of the United States seems that because the reinforcement of the ROK Navy and Air Force requires a huge military expense, the United States cannot but assume their role instead. However, this logic greatly conflicts with reality in which, under the pretext of its present financial difficulties, the United States has been calling for South Korea to increase its share of defense expenses.

Frankly speaking, the presence of U.S. forces is aimed at protecting the national interests of the United States based on its global strategies. Therefore, the United States should refrain from its unreasonable act of repeatedly calling for South Korea to share more of the defense expenses by taking advantage of the tense relations between the North and South.

U.S. 'Considering Trade Sanctions' Against Seoul

SK3009012994 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0002 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] It has been learned that the United States is considering trade sanctions on the ROK and Japan regarding agricultural products with the introduction of the Super 301 clause in case negotiations with Japan concerning trade issues fail.

Accordingly, concerned ROK officials, including ROK Ambassador to the United States Han Sung-su and Economic Consular Kim Chong-ki, are in a hurry to assuage the United States by holding multilateral meetings with the U.S. Administration officials concerned, including the White House and the U.S. Trade Representative.

It is most likely that if the United States takes retaliatory steps against Japan for the stalemate in trade negotiations between the United States and Japan, some ROK agricultural products will become the subject of priority negotiations pursuant to the Super 301 clause, and the issue of frozen sausages, which at one time was the focus of discussion between the ROK and the United States with regard to its distribution period, will become an issue.

Minister Han Meets With Four Foreign Ministers

SK3009022294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0136 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] New York, Sept. 29 (YONHAP)—The South Korean and Canadian foreign ministers adopted concrete plans Thursday for a "special partnership" between their countries covering both economic and non-economic relations.

Han Sung-chu of South Korea and Andre Ouellet of Canada met at the United Nations, where they are attending the 49th general assembly session, and adopted a report outlining what would be included in the special partnership.

The partnership was agreed on last November by the two nations' presidents as a cooperation channel between "mid-countries" that can serve as links between advanced nations and developing states.

The foreign ministers issued a joint statement after their talks announcing they had agreed on action plans for market access, technology development, development assistance, investment promotion and joint investment.

They said they were ready to cooperate closely in multilateral bodies such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Ouellet was one of four foreign ministers that Han met on his first working day at the United Nations. He also sat down with the foreign ministers of Israel, Chile and Colombia and sought their support for South Korean Trade Minister Kim Chol-su's bid to become the WTO's first director-general next year and Seoul's candidacy for non-permanent membership on the U.N. Security Council for 1996-97.

South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said three of the four countries promised their support.

Han and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres discussed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's scheduled visit to South Korea in December.

Han is due to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Foreign Ministers Qian Qichen of China and Alain Juppe of France on Friday.

Minister Views Foreign Exchange Controls Issue

SK3009060294 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 30 Sep 94 p 9

[By staff reporter Yi Chang-sop]

[Text] Finance Minister Hong Chae-hyong said yesterday that Korea needs to further liberalize foreign exchange transactions to meet the standards set by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

In a speech at a forum for the group of the Next Generation of Leaders, organized by former finance minister Sa Kong-Il at the Sheration Walker Hill Hotel, Hong said although the Korean government has been continuing with various foreign exchange deregulation efforts, Korea still has some way to go before it meets the OECD standards.

About 40 lawmakers and government officials from the United States, Great Britain, Japan, Germany, China and Korea attended the meeting, organized by the Institute for Global Economics.

In the past, relatively tight foreign exchange controls were almost inevitable due to a chronic shortage of foreign currency but now amid the global trend toward liberalization, maintaining these controls is becoming less effective, he said. Moreover, it is weakening the competitiveness of Korean industries and financial institutions, he noted. "Consequently, our foreign exchange reform plan aims at abolishing most government controls within the next five years," he told both Korean and foreign participants.

His remark drew special attention because it came at a time when foreigners have begun to show less enthusiasm about the government's draft reform plan for foreign exchange and capital flow controls.

The minister said restrictions on current account transactions will be fully liberalized at the earliest possible point. "To give you an idea of how much Korea's foreign exchange situation has changed over the past two decades, let me tell you an anecdote from my personal experience," he said.

"In the early 1970s, after the first oil shock, I was the director of the International Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance and I accompanied the finance minister on a number of overseas visits to solicit foreign funds from overseas banks. On one occasion, I remember very clearly, the minister and I were kept waiting outside the office of the bank's chairman for over half an hour," he recalled.

"But now, instead of a shortage of foreign exchange, Korea fears an excessive influx of foreign capital," he said.

Hong said, "With growth in terms of size and complexity, the Korean economy is rapidly outgrowing protective or interventionist measures, which are increasingly becoming a cumbersome means of promoting economic growth."

The conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and the launching of the World Trade Organization are making it more difficult to maintain protective industrial policies, he said.

Kim Urges Police Not To Abuse Public Authority

SK3009110394 Seoul YONHAP in English 1045 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 30 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam on Friday [30 September] urged the National Police to display the determination not to tolerate any persons challenging public authority.

While meeting with a group of 19 senior police officers at Chongwadae [presidential offices], President Kim said that the police, for instance, should not condone those assaulting policemen with lethal tools like steel pipes.

The police officers included National Police Agency Director Kim Hwa-nam and Seoul Police Director Pak Il-yong.

Saying that personal properties amassed in illegal means should be confiscated, the president said public officials involved in embezzlement should be punished most harshly.

"Corrupt public officials should be expelled from the society at the soonest possible time even by revising relevant laws if necessary," he said.

President Kim also said the present practice of the press covering culprits should be rectified. "The press have begun to reflect on themselves... In advanced countries, no reporters try to interview murderers," he said.

The president said that if television reporters try to interview a killer, the police should prevent it. "See to it that no reporters interview murderers ahead of police investigation in the future," Kim said.

Burma

Karen Rebels Seek Thai Help To Pressure SLORC

BK2909092694 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Sep 94 p A5

[Text] Ethnic Karen guerrillas have urged Thailand and the world community "to use their influence" to persuade the Burmese junta to begin talks which go beyond a ceasefire agreement.

They said the Karen National Union (KNU) and the Burmese opposition alliance long for a political solution to the country's political and armed conflicts and favoured a nationwide ceasefire and peace talks involving all ethnic and political organizations.

The KNU, in a statement, said they continued to insist that "the necessary dialogue can only satisfactorily occur on neutral ground and in the presence of an independent international observer".

There seems to be a slight shift in the Karen position from its previous demands that peace talks must take place "outside Burma" and in the presence of a UN observer. The ruling Burmese State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) has rejected the Karen's conditions and demanded that any truce talks take place inside the country.

"The KNU therefore urges the Royal Thai Government and other members of the international community to use their influence to persuade Slorc to acknowledge the need for genuine dialogue towards a real political settlement which goes beyond separate ceasefires as a means of achieving lasting peace in Burma," it said.

Karen officials reportedly said some progress was achieved during the recent meeting between KNU leaders and Anglican Archbishop Andrew Mya Han, who has shuttled between Rangoon and Karen headquarters at Manerplaw to work out a formula for Karen dialogue with Rangoon.

The progress, while remained confidential to the public, has prompted speculations that first bilateral encounter between the Slorc and the Karen guerrillas could start soon.

The Karen statement said Slorc has repeatedly refused to address any political agenda and insisted only on demarcation lines for military activity, resulting in a deadlock in its negotiations with the armed ethnic Mon movement.

"According to the New Mon State Party, Slorc was still refusing to talk about an issues other than demarcation lines, ie it was refusing to talk about any of the political issues, including the question a displaced persons and refugees," said the Karen statement.

Than Shwe Urges Gradual, 'Correct' Privatization

BK3009044094 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] The Special Projects Implementation Committee [SPIC] held its coordination meeting No. 4/94 at 1000 today in the Conference Hall of the Office of the Commander in Chief of the Army. Senior General Than Shwe, SPIC chairman, State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] chairman, and Defense Services commander in chief, addressed the meeting.

Than Shwe explained the need to gradually reduce government supervision of state enterprises and to transfer the rights to the local people. He said under the previous system, the state undertook responsibility for the people's needs for food, clothing, and shelter and was responsible for production, with subsequent successes and shortcomings. He said the shortcomings should be reviewed and reforms carried out.

He called for the review of practices which do not fit in with the modern market economy system and pointed out the need to carry out necessary reforms. He explained that except for enterprises to be carried out by the government, enterprises should be privatized gradually through correct methods and procedures. For their part, government organizations should assist entrepreneurs to develop expertise in operating the enterprises. As the private enterprises acquire more skill in running the enterprises, the government role should be reduced gradually. He said care should be taken to prevent a small group of private entrepreneurs from monopolizing the distribution of the nation's wealth. He said arrangements should be made for successful operation of enterprises under the management of local entrepreneurs.

Than Shwe said reforms should be carried out in the spirit of patriotism and explained that the country's production and private investment would grow as state economic enterprises are privatized systematically and correctly. He said privatization would enable people to operate and manage the economic enterprises themselves, creating more opportunities and employment. He said privatization would reduce expenditures and unnecessary burdens for the government. He said in carrying out these reforms for development of the nation the following measures can be taken: handing over some enterprises that can be operated by cooperatives; establishment of joint ventures with shares from the public; establishment of joint ventures between the government and local private entrepreneurs; and establishment of joint ventures between the government and foreign entrepreneurs.

Next, Brigadier General Abel, minister of national planning and economic development, explained the privatization of state enterprises. Those in attendance at the meeting discussed the matter. The meeting ended at 1100.

Cambodia

Co-Prime Ministers Appeal for KR Defections

BK2909151894 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 29 Sep 94

["Appeal" issued by the Royal Government of Cambodia in Phnom Penh on 27 September]

[Text] Responding to the august and enlightened suggestion of His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, king of the Kingdom of Cambodia and father of national union, national reconciliation, and national concord—who is always concerned with the fate of innocent Cambodians—the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia repeatedly agreed to hold meetings and discussions with the Khmer Rouge [KR] leadership, particularly the meeting at Chhanghsu-on Palace and the roundtable in Phnom Penh, to secure mutual agreement on the implementation of an in-place, unconditional, and immediate cease-fire throughout the Kingdom of Cambodia. The bullheaded leaders of the Khmer Rouge faction, however, stubbornly refused to accept a cease-fire under the royal patronage of our highly venerated king. They continued to nurture the warmongering ambition to seize power through military force. Given this situation, the patience of the Royal Government could not be stretched any further. On 7 July 1994 the National Assembly passed a law outlawing the Democratic Kampuchea faction—the Khmer Rouge.

The Royal Government would like to inform the officers, men, and compatriots who are temporarily living under the control of the Khmer Rouge that the Khmer Rouge faction has been both politically and militarily outlawed. The Khmer Rouge group is being isolated from the national and international communities. The Khmer Rouge have turned and are turning themselves into genocidal rebels who have no legal right to set up any administrative system in any form, including their so-called Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia.

Therefore, the Royal Government would like to appeal once again to the officers, men, and compatriots who are living under the control of the bullheaded Khmer Rouge leaders to hurry up and find ways to return to the national community under the same conditions described to you in previous appeals by the Royal Government and commanders at all levels of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF]. The Royal Government still has a marked interest in providing you with the same legal right to own land, houses, and other assets as that enjoyed by all other innocent Cambodian citizens in the Kingdom of Cambodia. You are invited to contact the local authorities and KRAF units that are waiting to welcome you everywhere and at all times. The sooner you return to the national fold the better.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 27 September 1994

[Signed] Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister, and Second Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen

King Urges 'Understanding' To End 'Crisis'

BK2909151994 Phnom Penh AKP in English 1008 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Phnom Penh AKP September 29—His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk on Wednesday called for greater understanding between the press, human rights groups and the royal government.

In a statement dated on Wednesday and faxed to the royal palace from Beijing where he is currently undergoing medical treatment for his cancer the Cambodian monarch wished for an end to the crisis "with both sides having a better understanding of their respective rights and duties...in a spirit of conciliation."

The king complained that his work for a wide-range of human rights issues since 1991 had been "unjustly ignored or forgotten."

The issues, according to the king, included defending human rights, liberal democracy, trying to secure the release of political prisoners and trying to stop the arrest of journalists and abolish secret prison.

"Since 1991 I have been the number one supporter of the freedom of the press and of a pluralistic political system, but certain newspapers, certain Khmer politicians and certain foreigners love to slander me, discredit me, criticize me and make political attacks against me without any justifications," the king said adding that those people had accused him of being "pro-Khmer Rouge or pro- Vietnamese or of unceasingly causing trouble to the royal government or wanting to take power, violating the Constitution, sweeping away the political parties and...newspapers."

"The fact that x or y or z often asks me if I really want to retake state power and exercise a royal dictatorship hurts me profoundly because their questioning bears witness to their mistrust and their scorn towards me," the king said.

King Sihanouk said he would "never violate" the Constitution and was the "number one enemy" of coup d'etats.

The king dismissed as "inadmissible slander" a recent press [words indistinct].

General Views Increased Rebel Attacks in Kampot

BK2909151694 Phnom Penh THE CAMBODIA DAILY in English 28 Sep 94 p 6

[Report by Thomas Beller in Kampot]

[Text] THE CAMBODIA DAILY—The Khmer Rouge stepped up their campaign of hit-and-run attacks against government positions in Kampot Province with two daylight strikes on Monday [26 September] afternoon, according to RCAF [Royal Cambodian Armed Forces] sources in the area.

Approximately 15 guerrillas attacked a chemical factory in Tuk Meas District, but were driven back by 60 provincial police forces guarding the compound, General Meach May told THE CAMBODIA DAILY yesterday. Three guerrillas were killed in the attack according to the general.

Nearly 200 additional government forces had recently been moved from the vicinity, inducing the guerrillas to hit what they expected was an easy target, the general said, complaining that the guerrillas had been tipped off to the movement by local villagers.

Khmer Rouge soldiers were also beaten back after ambushing a checkpoint on Route 3 near Phnum Salei village, where nearly 2,000 villagers are squatting after being displaced from the Phnum Voar area, local aid workers said.

Two guerrillas were killed by RCAF troops at the checkpoint, according to soldiers who had been involved in the fire-fight.

"We were on the hill and they were coming from below, so they were easy targets," said one government soldier.

General Meach May said that the three western hostages—Briton Mark Slater, Frenchman Jean-Michel Braquet and Australian David Wilson—were now being held in the Khmer Rouge controlled village of Andong Chik, near Phnum Voar. He said that the guerrillas were no longer asking for ransom money, but demanding a cease-fire with the government in the area and a meeting between their figurehead leader Khieu Samphan and diplomats representing France, Britain and Australia.

The RCAF general claimed that the government had held back from shelling the area where the hostages have been held for several weeks. Meach May also said government "agents" had reported at least two of the three Vietnamese who were kidnapped along with the Westerners when the train they were riding on was ambushed in July, are still alive and being held captive.

Minister Confirms Existence of 'Torture' Prison

BK2909140094 Phnom Penh THE CAMBODIA DAILY in English 26 Sep 94 p 7

[Report by Robin McDowell and Thomas Beller]

[Text] Responding to claims in THE CAMBODIA TIMES that reports of atrocities and illegal detention at an illicit prison in Battambang Province were false, the vice governor of the province, Serei Kosal, has stated that the S91 prison was indeed "a secret prison" which had been occupied by special intelligence forces.

THE CAMBODIA TIMES used the word "baseless" in a front page headline in reference to claims that the secret prison had been the scene of torture and executions.

Co-Minister of Interior Sar Kheng contradicted the newspaper in an interview with THE CAMBODIA DAILY yesterday, saying that "the prison had been operating as recently as two months ago." The minister added that "it is now closed."

A controversy has been brewing since last month over allegations that the government had been proceeding too slowly in its investigation of the prison. THE CAMBODIA DAILY has reported accounts of illegal detentions, abductions, assassinations and torture in the prison since last June.

THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW later reported on atrocities committed at the prison, including the revelation that military officials occasionally mutilated their victims and sometimes cooked and ate their internal organs.

"Some of the prisoners were tortured and persecuted," Serei Kosal said yesterday, adding that the prison had recently been occupied by government forces.

Human rights workers familiar with the area refuted a statement in THE CAMBODIA TIMES that "villagers living nearby have also dismissed the claim and say the facility in this province had been a prison only during the Vietnamese occupation," explaining that nearby residents had long been aware of the operation but were intimidated by the troops manning the prison.

A UN official stated last August that the government response to revelations of the prison's existence was "shame and embarrassment."

* Sam Rangsi Sentiments on Khmer Rouge Noted

94SE0197B Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 24 Jun 94 pp 1, 11

[Text] It should be noted again that on 7 May during his trip to France, Mr. Sam Rangsi met with the Cambodians there. What Mr. Sam Rangsi said was published in the newsletter "News of Cambodia" in issue number 12 of 15 May in an article entitled "Report of Mr. Sam Rangsi."

In this article, Mr. Sam Rangsi clarified his position on the Khmer Rouge problem: "...if the Khmer Rouge join in the government it will be good for the country and good for FUNCINPEC. The Khmer Rouge cannot easily commit any evil acts as they did in the past. But, some people are afraid that if the Khmer Rouge participate, they will kill Cambodians as they did in the past. We have been aware of this problem for a long time; but there are some countries that do not wish for our nation to prosper." Mr. Rangsi further stated that "national unity must involve all Cambodians, even the Khmer Rouge, because there are many Khmer Rouge who have joined the Royal Government. We must turn a new page and rebuild our nation. A three-headed or four-headed government would not be so bad."

Indonesia

Five FRETELIN Members Killed in Clash

BK3009071394 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0500 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Five FRETELIN [Front for an Independent East Timor] members were shot dead during a fire fight with an East Timor security team consisting of local residents and the armed forces troopers.

Speaking in Dili yesterday, Major L. Simbolon, commander of the 164 Wiradharma Regional Command Information Department, said the clash occurred on Tuesday and Wednesday when the security and armed forces teams were on a security patrol near Viqueque, about 230 kms east of Dili.

Suharto Receives Singapore's Goh Chok Tong

Leaders Discuss APEC Summit

BK2909155794 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1017 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Yogyakarta, 29 Sep (ANTARA)—President Suharto and Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong have agreed that their two countries should upgrade cooperation to eliminate Indonesia's problem with forest fires and fires caused by the burning of peat and coal, because such fires have affected weather conditions in Singapore as well as Malaysia.

Minister/State Secretary Murdiono said this to reporters after the two leaders concluded their meeting at Yogyakarta's Great Auditorium on Thursday.

Murdiono clarified that President Suharto and Goh had a common view regarding the upcoming APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] economic summit to be attended by APEC leaders in Bogor on 15 November 1994.

Murdiono said: "It seems that the two leaders have similar views regarding what should be decided during the upcoming Bogor summit."

The Bogor summit will be attended by the 18 APEC member countries—the six ASEAN member countries, the United States, Canada, Chile, Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, South Korea, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

According to Murdiono, the Singapore prime minister stressed that he would personally like to see the Bogor summit be successful.

He also stated that the two leaders had agreed to upgrade bilateral cooperation, not only with regard to Sijori (Singapore; Johor, Malaysia; and Riau, Indonesia) cooperation but also on a wider basis.

Touching on the issue of tourism cooperation, the president and his guest agreed that cooperation in that sector should be centered on Yogyakarta, Solo, Ujungpandang, and Lombok (West Nusatenggara). Tourism cooperation will be handed over to the private sector. The implementation of tourism cooperation will include, for example, the expansion of Adisumarmo Airport in Solo.

Murdiono also stated that the ministers who held separate meetings agreed to embark on more concrete cooperation following the agreements reached by the two leaders.

President Suharto, who was accompanied by Murdiono and Public Works Minister Radinal Mokhtar, returned to Jakarta after the talks. Prime Minister Goh will spend the night in Yogyakarta before returning to Singapore on Friday morning.

Goh: ASEAN Summit Unnecessary

BK2909155994 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1121 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Yogyakarta, 29 Sep (ANTARA)—Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong says that ASEAN does not need to hold a summit prior to the APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] leaders economic summit to be held in Bogor on 15 November.

Speaking to reporters at a news conference at the state auditorium in Yogyakarta on Thursday afternoon, Goh said: "I did not discuss the issue of a summit with President Suharto because Singapore considers an ASEAN summit unnecessary prior to the Bogor summit."

Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai recently stated that ASEAN leaders need to hold a summit before they attend the Bogor summit.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas previously said that the idea of holding a summit arose during the recent ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in Bangkok but the issue was not discussed by the ASEAN leaders.

The APEC leaders economic summit will be attended by 18 countries—the six ASEAN members, the United States, Canada, Chile, Mexico, the People's Republic of China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea.

Laos

Foreign Affairs Minister Visits Cuba 21-25 Sep

BK3009100894 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Somsavat Lengsavat paid an official visit to the Republic of Cuba from 21 to

25 September. Upon his arrival in Havana on 21 September, he was welcomed in a warm and friendly atmosphere by Roberto Robaina, minister of foreign relations, along with high-ranking officials of the Foreign Relations Ministry of the Republic of Cuba.

During the visit, a bilateral meeting was held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. During the meeting, the two sides reached unanimity on all issues of common interest. On the occasion, the Lao and Cuban foreign ministers signed a program of cooperation between the two foreign ministries.

Somsavat Lengsavat had the honor of paying a courtesy call on Fidel Castro, president of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba. Attending were Carlos Lage, vice president of the Council of State and concurrently executive secretary of the Council of Ministers, and Roberto Robaina, minister of foreign relations. Our foreign affairs minister conveyed to Fidel Castro warm greetings from the Lao party chairman and government leader. Fidel Castro expressed satisfaction to the Lao party and Government over the implementation of the independent policy in defending the country and improving the living conditions of the Lao people. He also hailed Laos' foreign policy, as it has significantly contributed to bringing about peace, stability, and cooperation to the region.

Foreign Affairs Minister Somsavat Lengsavat also met with some other ministers and a number of dignitaries in the Cuban Government. During his stay in Havana, our foreign affairs minister also received courtesy calls from foreign diplomats and representatives of international organizations to the Republic of Cuba. In addition, the Lao delegation visited industrial, tourism, and cultural places in Matanzas Province where it was accorded a warm welcome by Ms. (Yabira Garcia), first secretary of the party and administrative committees of the province.

The visit to the Republic of Cuba by our foreign affairs minister on this occasion was crowded with glorious success. It has significantly contributed to the strengthening of solidarity and friendship as well as cooperation between the two countries of Laos and Cuba.

Minister Leaves for World Bank-IMF Meeting

BK2909135994 Vientiane KPL in English 0903 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Vientiane, September 29 (KPL)—A Lao delegation led by Khamsai Souphanouvong, minister of finance and representative of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] to the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, left here on September 28, for Madrid, Spain, to attend the 49th annual conference of the World Bank and of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) due to be held in Spain between September 30 and October 6.

On this occasion, the Lao delegation will hear a report of the presidents of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. It will also learn the policy and guideline on the cooperation as well as the release of loans, grant fund for development in the world changing situation. [sentence as received] This aims to attract supports from the World Bank, IMF and other financial institutions for the implementation of the projects in the strategic plan of the 1994-2000 socio-economic development in the Lao PDR.

The World Bank has agreed to lend U.S. dollars 228 million to the Lao PDR for the 1994-1997 period. And in 1994 alone, low-interest loans of U.S. dollars 48.2 million have been approved to be released to Laos.

The International Monetary Fund has also approved low-interest loans of U.S. dollars 45 million to the Lao PDR for the macro-adjustment project.

Assembly Hears Minister's Economic Report

BK2909142994 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Today is the second day of the fifth plenary session of the Third National Assembly. At the session, members of the National Assembly continued to study and assess the report on the 1993-94 socioeconomic development plan and the orientation of the 1994-95 socioeconomic development plan, presented by Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Committee for Planning and Cooperation. The report pointed at the substantial growth and development in various fields. In 1994, the gross national social output is expected to grow at between 7 and 8 percent; in particular the agriculture-forestry sector by 7 percent over the planned figure of 5 to 6 percent; the industry sector at between 8 and 9 percent, and services by 7 percent. The national per capita income is forecast to grow at between 4 and 5 percent compared to the previous year, which was approximately U.S. $335 per capita. The annual inflation rate is estimated to be about 8 percent—a rate that has been forecast and that is under control. The state investment in infrastructure construction is about 139.5 billion kips, accounting for about 12.6 percent of the gross domestic social output. This includes 34.1 billion kips of domestic capital and 105.4 billion kips of foreign funds, surpassing the planned figures by 2.2 billion kips and 15.5 billion kips, respectively.

As for the 1994-95 socioeconomic development plan, Khamphoui Keoboualapha noted that the gross domestic social output will increase by 8 percent, agriculture-forestry output at between 6 and 7 percent, industry-handicraft output at between 10 and 11 percent, and services at between 7 and 8 percent. Domestic per capita income is forecast to grow at 5 percent compared to the previous year, which was approximately U.S. $350 per capita. This should gradually improve the living conditions of the people in rural and mountainous regions. Deputy Prime Minister Khamphoui Keoboualapha went on to discuss the orientation of the 1994-95 socioeconomic development plan as follows:

[Begin Khamphoui Keoboualapha recording] We are entering the 1994-95 fiscal year at a time when the international and regional situation is still somewhat confusing. However, the general trend of the world is obviously toward peaceful coexistence, cooperation, and development on the basis of mutual benefit. At the same time, the situation in various areas of our country is also improving each passing day. First, economic growth is forecast to be higher than the previous year and will gradually develop along the economic structure mapped out by our party. The social and cultural sectors will be developed in line with the government's policy and along the direction of the party's resolution on cultural work. At the same time, all (?macro) organizations at each level will be continuously consolidated to meet the requirements of the political situation and tasks in the new period. However, while entering the 1994-95 fiscal year, the second in the implementation of the socioeconomic development plan for the period from 1993 to the year 2000 and the final year of the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the Fifth Congress of the party Central Committee, we are requested to pay more attention and make greater efforts to building a firm foundation for development in the years to come.

With regard to our overall tasks, we must consistently and firmly adhere to the policy of all-round and principled restructuring outlined by our party. We must seize any fundamentally favorable international and domestic circumstances to build a new posture for economic development and more clearly and vigorously promote our country's social and cultural development. This is to raise the standard of our people's material and cultural life.

On the basis of the above, overall tasks and relying on the achievements of the plans of recent years, we have outlined the objectives to be fulfilled in the 1994-95 plan as follows:

1. To get the national economy to continually grow at a higher rate by achieving a gross domestic social output growth of not less than 8 percent compared to the previous year, in particular the agriculture-forestry sector at between 6 and 7 percent, the industry and handicrafts sector at between 10 and 11 percent, and services sector at between 7 and 8 percent. National per capita income growth is forecast at 5 percent compared to the previous year. In doing this, we must pay attention to improving the living conditions of residents in the rural areas and mountainous regions.

2. To keep the annual rate of inflation at between 8 and 9 percent, to increase exports at between 7 or 8 percent, and to keep trade deficit at 10 percent of the gross domestic social output.

3. To ensure the execution of the tasks outlined in the plan for the growth to be not less than 8 percent, in the 1994-95 period, it is estimated that the state will invest some 192.9 billion kips in carrying out the development plan. This is an increase of 35 percent compared to the previous year. This includes approximately 43.8 billion kips in domestic capital and 145.4 billion kips in foreign funds. At the same time, we must strive harder to attract foreign investment and encourage the various domestic business sectors to increase investment so as to raise the volume of private investment compared to the previous year. In addition to the capital sources mentioned above, the government must possess reserves to be allocated as budgets for the building of the economy and the execution of other government tasks.

To fulfill the above objectives, in the 1994-95 fiscal year we must concentrate efforts on implementing the following seven major economic plans:

1. The plan to produce food supplies and food grain in the major plains, for example rice production in the Vientiane plain.

2. Attempts must be made to halt slash-and-burn activities, to allot fixed land for crop growing, to protect and preserve forests and water sources, and primarily watershed and forest areas near the existing hydroelectric dams. Trees must be planted in areas adjacent to Nam Ou, Nam Theun, the Bolovens plain, and Se Khamman watersheds as well as those of the Nam Ou, Nam Kham, and Nam Tha rivers and their tributaries. The planting of tree saplings and the protection of forests and watersheds are duties that must be carried out by all citizens through contributions in the forms of knowledge, labor, and funds.

3. The goods production plan aimed at transforming the natural economy into a goods production economy: In executing this plan, we must pay attention to promoting agriculture-forestry production, for example the planting of fast-growing trees, sugar cane, coffee, cotton, tobacco, mulberry trees, and other plants to be linked with [words indistinct] and handicrafts movement so as to produce goods as a basis for economic development. First of all, attention must be paid to building communications routes, especially in the countryside and mountainous regions. Efforts must be made to build medium-size and large hydroelectric dams, to expand electrification projects into the countryside and mountainous regions, and to build irrigation networks to serve dry season production. We must restrict and eventually halt slash-and-burn crop cultivation and allot fixed professions for rural people. We must also link agricultural production to industrial production so as to improve the living conditions of the people in the countryside and mountainous regions.

6. [Figure as heard] We must continue broadening economic relations and cooperation with foreign countries.

7. The human resources development plan: While consolidating the general education system, we must organize specialized training programs for rural people to

teach them how to earn their living in fixed areas. State employees must go out to the countryside to work among the people so as to impart technical knowledge and to assist them in translating such science into practice, especially in intensively cultivated areas for development.

To fulfill the aforementioned objectives and intensive tasks, we must concentrate efforts on carrying out the following fundamental tasks:

1. The task in the agriculture-forestry sector: In 1994 and 1995, this sector must persist in fulfilling the following—promoting rice cultivation on the six major plains and small plains in all provinces, primarily the Vientiane plain. This is to expand the project to grow rice and other crops for commercial purposes and link them to the processing industry so as to create a firm economic foundation for these areas. In the 1995 agricultural production season, we must strive to produce 1.7 million metric tons of paddy, clear and turn some 18,500 hectares into new ricefields, irrigate some 150,000 hectares of ricefields in the dry season, and increase the dry season rice acreage by 5,000 hectares over the previous year. To fulfill these targets, we must carry out intensive agriculture, use new and efficient crop yields, use both organic and inorganic fertilizer, apply modern production techniques, and encourage farmers to extensively apply experiences drawn from (?model farming families). At the same time, we must acquire adequate funds to carry out intensive agriculture, build irrigation facilities, purchase the necessary farm tools, and clear new land for rice planting.

We must pay attention to promoting livestock raising activities among the people by expanding the veterinary network into extensive livestock raising areas. Livestock breeding must be promoted. New pasture for livestock must be surveyed and expanded, especially in areas designated for intensive livestock raising in each region. When conditions permit, people must be encouraged to form their own livestock-raising groups and coordinate with the existing major livestock-raising projects.

In 1994 and 1995, efforts must be made to halt slash-and-burn activities and to preserve forests and water resources, such as watershed areas of hydroelectric dams and their locations, as well as forests reserves. People must be relocated from these areas to the plains for settled farming.

The commercial production of goods must be promoted in areas with favorable conditions and facilities such as markets. Projects for planting industrial crops must be launched in areas where there are factories to process their products. These crops include tobacco, sugar cane, cotton, kapok, cashew nut, beans, pineapple, mulberry trees, and others, especially in Vientiane Province and other adjacent provinces. Fast-growing industrial trees must be grown in certain districts designated as tree-planting areas to supply raw materials to existing factories.

Regarding forestry, in 1994 and 1995, first and foremost, attention must be paid to the surveys and allocation of forests. Forests must be clearly divided into areas such as forest reserves, national parks, watersheds, and economic forests. Along with the restoration of forests and nature, arrangements must be urgently made to plant trees where forests have been largely destroyed. First, we must concentrate on planting trees in areas specified under each locality's adopted project. According to the 1994 and 1995 targets, trees are to be planted on 10,000 hectares. All Lao citizens must regard tree planting as their duty. At the same time, it is necessary to request technical and financial support and assistance from foreign countries and international organizations so that the project will be successful. The forestry service must prepare the budget, necessary tools, tree saplings, and technical equipment to serve the people's tree planting movement in the coming season.

Wood exploitation in our country is basically for domestic (?consumption). As for export, the government plans to strictly manage and reduce it gradually. Wood exploitation will be carried out in areas where hydroelectric dams, irrigation projects, and roads are to be built. Land and forests must be continuously allocated and be under the control and management of the people. Certain experiences as well as rules and regulations on this issue must be publicized. In 1994 and 1995, it is expected that some 30.2 billion kips will be invested in agroforestry. This amount is 16 percent of the total funds.

2. On industrial and handicraft sector: state and private sectors are encouraged to carry out surveys and to invest in the construction of medium- and large-size hydroelectric dams. Simultaneously, surveys for small hydroelectric dams must be done, while electrification must be expanded to rural areas in different ways, such as by using water power and solar energy, so as to fulfill the adopted plan. In addition, it is necessary to promote the survey of minerals in the main areas stipulated in the national socioeconomic plan. At the same time, surveys must be conducted and the building of processing factories begin by stressing the link between processing industries and agriculture, for example the integrated wood processing industry, sugar plant, cotton thread and textile factory, and others. The private sector must be encouraged to invest in processing industries and (?lacquerware) handicrafts to create jobs for multiethnic people.

Attention must be paid to appropriately manage domestic and foreign invesments in accordance with contracts and law or investment regulations. For example, large-size foreign investment projects must be gradually boosted in accordance with already agreed-upon contracts.

The 1994-95 fiscal year target for the industrial and handicrafts sector is a 10 to 11 percent rise in production, compared to the previous year. In 1994 and 1995, the state plans to invest 26.9 billion kips, or 14.2 percent of the total investment capital on the industrial and handicrafts sector.

Third Day of National Assembly Session Reported

BK2909141494 Vientiane KPL in English 0900 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Vientiane, September 29 (KPL)—The deputies of the National Assembly yesterday, the third day of the fifth session of the National Assembly (third legislature), considered the guideline of the 1994-1995 socio-economic development plan.

The plan envisages seven main tasks: the food and foodstuff production programme on six major plains; the programme of slash-and-burn cultivation termination, allocation of fixed farming, forestry and watershed protection; the programme of market-oriented production aimed at turning subsistent economy to market-oriented economy; the programme of economic infrastructure construction; the rural development programme; the further move to expand foreign economic cooperation; and the programme of human resources development.

Following the study, the deputies have agreed upon the execution of the guideline of the 1994-1995 socio-economic development plan.

The session also touched upon some weak points and defects, such as the overexpansion of garment industry. Some weak points in cultural affairs, education, public health and some negative social phenomena were also raised at the meeting.

Thailand

Army Chief Denies Nepotism in Promotion List

BK3009035494 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Sep 94 p A7

[Text] Army Commander in Chief Wimon Wongwanit has defended himself against accusations of nepotism in his role in the annual transfer of army officers, saying he acted only in the country's interests.

Gen Wimon denied the claims of a recent anonymous leaflet, criticizing the transfers as the work of a senior officer. The leaflet accused the army chief of resorting to nepotism and blocking the promotion of certain officers. It also said Wimon had become a political tool of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai. Wimon said he had transferred the officers according to their abilities and their knowledge, and that officers were promoted within their combat units. He said the transfers were undertaken in the interests of the country.

"You should give them a chance to work to prove themselves. You cannot lie to the public. I cannot lie to the public. The transfers were worked out by a committee, not myself alone," Gen Wimon said.

He accused reporters of distributing the leaflets, designed to cause rifts in the military, and between the military and politicians, he said.

Wimon said he and members of the committee responsible for the transfers believed the leaflet was not the work of a soldier. However, he said he would not investigate the matter.

"There are many mentally sick people in society. We cannot prohibit anyone from voicing his or her opinions. We are a democratic country which allows freedom of expression. But we should comment constructively," he said.

The leaflet claimed the author was a senior army officer who graduated from the respected Royal Chunlachomklao Military Academy. It accused the army chief of destroying the system of hierarchy based on seniority and replacing it with army nepotism.

The leaflet also said Wimon did not accept a promotion to supreme commander because he had fallen into a political trap laid by Prime Minister Chuan, who it said wanted Wimon to remain as a powerful army commander to protect the government.

Article Views Future of Foreign Minister Prasong

BK3009054994 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Sep 94 p A4

[Article by Thepchai Yong: "Prasong's Foreign Affairs Job On The Line"]

[Text] One question frequently raised in diplomatic circles these days is whether Sqd Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong Sunsiri would lose his job as foreign minister in the event of a Cabinet reshuffle. One Asian diplomat whispered to me the other day that Prasong was likely to be spared even if all his Phalang Tham colleagues had to go. "It is a request from the prime minister," the diplomat explained, echoing speculation being heard among political analysts.

But whether or not there was actually a "request" from Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, it has done little to change the minds of many of those in the Phalang Tham leadership. A party executive went as far as proclaiming early this week that Prasong's days as foreign minister were numbered. To the pro-Chamlong faction, Prasong is a root cause of many of the problems engulfing Phalang Tham. And the fact that Prasong's personal aide, At-ong Chumsai na Ayutthaya, came out challenging Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang for the party's helm certainly did not help.

It is probably Prasong's own character which has done much to alienate him from his party colleagues. Critics said the pipe- smoking Bangkok MP hardly feels at home among the Phalang Tham rank- and-file. Even when he was a deputy party leader his communication with the rest of the leadership was minimal. His role in the running of the party's affairs was also negligible. In short, Prasong has very few friends in the party.

Many in the Phalang Tham leadership are also worried that Prasong has become a symbol of the estranged relations between the party and the opposition bloc. Prasong's stunning claims that certain opposition MPs were involved in drug dealing have made many in Phalang Tham further distance themselves from him. The unexpected presence of Phalang Tham's new secretary-general Mrs Sudarat Keyuraphan at the Chat Thai Party's 20th anniversary party on Tuesday was largely seen as an olive branch from its new leadership.

Some in Phalang Tham have also strongly questioned Prasong's performance as foreign minister. They cited constant complaints about his lack of vision in handling major foreign policy issues and his working relations with the bureaucrats at the Foreign Ministry. The same Phalang Tham executive who talked about post-Prasong days challenged anyone to point out the foreign minister's achievements.

Phalang Tham people's doubts about Prasong's ability to handle foreign affairs are shared by many of the bureaucrats and journalists at the Foreign Ministry. The more vocal critics say they are appalled by what they describe as Prasong's tunnel vision. They said Prasong's background as the national security chief still influences and colours his attitude as foreign minister. Thailand's policy toward its neighbours, notably the three Indochinese states, under Prasong's guidance—or lack of it—has fallen far short of being remarkable. His obsession with Burma, which eventually led to his inviting the Burmese foreign minister to be present during the Asean foreign ministers' meeting in July here, turned out to be a costly diplomatic gamble.

If Prasong is as unsociable a politician as his colleagues say, he is no more approachable as foreign minister. Complaints that Prasong is not open to advice from bureaucrats are common. Critics in Phalang Tham said they have heard tales about how Prasong's reticence sometimes makes foreign diplomats feel awkward in meeting with him. (That Prasong chooses to converse in English without the help of interpreters does not help). Former US president George Bush, who visited Bangkok early this year, certainly can testify to this. Bush must still remember how Prasong left him staring awkwardly at the ceiling of the Oriental Hotel's ballroom through most-of the evening. Is it possible that the two ex-intelligence chiefs simply had nothing in common to talk about?

Getting rid of Prasong as foreign minister is the easy part. Finding his successor is a big question for Phalang Tham. One of the few candidates whose name has been floated frequently is Dr Krasae Chanawong, a well-respected MP representing Bangkok. But the doctor-turned-politician's calibre is still being widely debated. As chairman of the House committee on foreign affairs, Dr Krasae may have an advantage over other candidates. But while his grasp of major foreign policy issues is still a under question mark, some in Phalang Tham are also concerned with his "soft" character—which is the opposite of Prasong's.

A Phalang Tham executive familiar with Maj Gen Chamlong's thinking said he believed that in the event of a reshuffle, all of the party's 11 Cabinet members would be replaced. And it was rather certain that Chamlong would become a deputy prime minister, replacing Bunchu Rotchanasathian. But he was quick to caution against expectations of any dramatic decision on October 4 when the party's new executive committee meets for the first time.

The new leadership is careful not to be too "predictable"—that it came to power solely to kick out the incumbent Cabinet members. It looks like Phalang Tham wants to buy a little more time before initiating any changes. At least, it does not want any debate about changes in Phalang Tham to be linked to the on-going political jockeying in the New Aspiration Party.

One or two more months could provide Phalang Tham with a breather to put its own house in order and to look for suitable candidates to replace the incumbents.

There is one piece of advice, however. A book, tentatively titled "300 Jokes about Prasong", being compiled by some of the bureaucrats at the Foreign Ministry in collaboration with reporters on the beat, should make a good read for the new Phalang Tham leadership before deciding what to do with its foreign affairs portfolio.

Government Forces Kill 3 Bandits Near Border

BK3009035994 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Sep 94 p 6

[Text] Yala—Three southern bandits were killed in a clash yesterday with a government patrol unit in Than Tho District, only a kilometre from Thai-Malaysian border.

The clash took place at Ban Bacho Maero shortly after noon when the government patrol unit, consisting of rangers, police and defence volunteers, encountered a Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) bandit group led by Poh Layu.

The two sides exchanged gunfire for 20 minutes after which the bandits withdrew into the jungle.

The patrol unit then called the Civilian-Police-Military Task Force 43 to send a helicopter gunship to strafe the area with machineguns and rockets.

The combined force later searched the area and found three bodies.

Lao Refugee Center To Close 30 Sep

BK2909152094 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] According to Thanawut Chanthong, head of the Lao Refugees Control Center at Ban Na Pho, Tambon

Ban Phung, Muang District, Nakhon Phanom Province, the Interior Ministry has announced the closure of the center on 30 September. Nearly 20,000 Lao refugees at the camp will be repatriated to their home country. The Lao Government has allocated land to accommodate the returnees. The Lao refugees will be returning on a voluntary basis. However, those who do not return by the set date will be regarded as resisting the repatriation and will be prosecuted under Thai immigration law. They will also be denied funds for their repatriation, subsidies sent by relatives abroad, as well as other services previously available.

Certain elements which oppose the repatriation have circulated rumors about punishment by the Lao Government and the lack of place to stay in Laos. Similar opposition to repatriation had occurred before and led to protest by refugees. However, the Ban Na Pho center has been carrying out a campaign on the latest repatriation to properly inform the refugees about the assurances of the Lao Government. The vice governor of Khammmouane Province has assured that the Lao Government has no policy of punishing any returning refugee. Instead, it has made preparations to make more land available to receive the refugees so they could return to help develop the country.

Vietnam

Iraqi Trade Minister Confers With Leaders

JN2909203594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Hanoi, 29 Sep (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih met in Hanoi this evening with Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

Mr. Vo told the trade minister the Vietnamese Government and people were in solidarity with the Government and people of Iraq as they face unfair sanctions and policies.

The Vietnamese official said: We are confident that, led by President Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi people will overcome all the difficulties they are facing. The Iraqis will emerge from the sanctions armed with considerable resources that will help them make quick progress in all fields, Mr. Vo said.

The trade minister outlined to the Vietnamese prime minister the conditions faced by Iraq, including the shortages in medicine and food.

Muhammad Mahdi Salih emphasized that the Iraqi people were lined up solidly behind President Saddam Husayn. He referred to the reconstruction effort mounted by the Iraqis using their own energies and resources to rehabilitate the country and build new projects to enhance the country's steadfastness.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Mahdi Salih conferred with Non Duc Manh, chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee, who underlined the need to lift the unjust sanctions so that the Iraqi people may have the chance to rebuild an advanced nation.

Iraq, led by Saddam Husayn, is capable of overcoming the difficulties brought on by the sanctions, the Vietnamese parliamentarian said.

Meets With Vo Van Kiet 29 Sep

BK3009085994 Hanoi VNA in English 0654 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept.30—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet cordially received here yesterday afternoon Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih who is on a visit to attend the 8th session of the Vietnam-Iraq intergovernmental committee for economic, trade, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation.

Speaking at tte reception Minister Salih greatly appreciated the Vietnamese Government and people's support for the struggle the Iraqi people. He affirmed that the Iraqi Government and people [word indistinct] to enhance its friendship and cooperation with Vietnam, and that Vietnam and Iraq would cooperate in various fields in conformity with the interets of each country.

Prime Minister Kiet welcomed Minister Salih's visit as well as the outcomes of the 8th meeting of the Vietnam-Iraq intergovernmental committee, considering them new landmark in the fraternal friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He expressed his deep sympathy over the difficulties the Iraqi people were facing and affirmed that Vietnam would do their best to support Iraq, just like the Iraqi people did in the past to Vietnam. Prime Minister Kiet said that he wished the embargo against Iraq be lifted soon. Affirmed that the Vietnamese Government and people will contribute to the pushing up of the all-round development of the Vietnam-Iraq friendship and cooperation. [sentence as received]

Meets National Assembly Chairman

BK3009012194 Hanoi VNA in English 1517 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 29—Chairman of the National Assembly Nong Duc Manh received this afternoon Iraqi Minister of Trade M. Mahdi Salih who is now here to attend the 8th meeting of the Vietnam-Iraq Inter-Governmental Committee.

Chairman Nong Duc Manh expressed gratitude of the Vietnamese Government, National Assembly and people to the Iraqi leaders and people for their support and assistance to Vietnam in its struggle for independence and national construction. He stressed that Vietnam and Iraq have many similarities and tradition of friendship and mutual support and assistance.

Minister M. Mahdi Salih informed Mr. Manh of the results of the committee's eighth meeting and highly appreciated Vietnam's feelings, support, and assistance to Iraq in the past as well as at present.

Do Muoi Meets Singapore Trade Union Delegates

BK3009013694 Hanoi VNA in English 1528 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sep. 29—Party General Secretary Do Muoi received here today a delegation of the National Trade Union Congress (NTUC) of Singapore, led by its General Secretary Lim Boon Heng now on an official visit to Vietnam as guest of the Vietnam General Confederation of Labour.

Mr. Lim Boon Heng told General Secretary Muoi that his Vietnam visit's aim is to establish the exchange relation on information and experience with the Vietnam General Confederation of Labour.

He said that the two trade union organizations had agreed on the cooperation in the fields of insurance, tourism, establishment of job training and consumption cooperatives.

Speaking to his guests, General Secretary Muoi welcomed the first high-level visit to Vietnam by Singapore's trade union organization and wished that the visit would help to expand the cooperation between the two trade union organizations thus practically contributing to the promotion of friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries.

The general secretary said that Vietnam wishes to learn Singapore's experience in socio-economic development, managerial works and personnel training as well as other valuable experience.

Also present at the reception were Nguyen Van Tu, president of the Vietnam General Confederation of Labour, Hoang Thuy Giang, deputy head of the External Relations Commission of the party Central Committee and Singaporean Ambassador to Vietnam Toh Hock Ghim.

Deputy Foreign Minister's European Tour Praised

BK2909142394 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Di Nien paid a visit to Great Britain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Italy from 5-21 September. The visit was to promote long-term relations for mutual benefit between Vietnam and northwestern Europe. On this event, our radio's editor has this to say:

This trip by Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Di Nien is a part of the plan to continue [word indistinct] foreign policy. Although these northwest European countries are geographically far from Vietnam, they have a good sentiment toward Vietnam and understand the Vietnamese situation. They all highly appreciate the initial achievements of Vietnam's comprehensive renovation and consider Vietnam an important nation in the Asian region. They also welcomed Vietnam's foreign policy and attached importance to promoting relations with Vietnam. They said Vietnam joining the ASEAN will open up prospects for more diverse cooperation with northwestern European countries and the European Community.

The recent visit by Mr. Nguyen Di Nien was successful. Vietnam has got continued support of these countries for the renovation. The Swedish and Finish Governments promised to increase their aid to Vietnam while Denmark said its $100 million aid earmarked for 1994- 97 would be made available at the early date. Norway, whose aid to developing countries makes up 1.17 percent of its GDP, said it was considering resumption of aid to Vietnam. In addition to gratuitous grants, all the host countries agreed to provide preferential or mixed credits in order to encourage investments in Vietnam by their own investors.

Vietnam is a new friend of countries in that region. Although most of the northern and western European countries have come to Vietnam late compared with countries in the other parts, as British Secretary of Foreign Affairs Douglas Hurd said, they will try hard to make up for the lost time. Realities have shown that these countries are keeping their promise.

The results of the visit to some northern and western European countries by Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Di Nien contributed to facilitating development of relations between Vietnam and those countries.

Lawyers Association Statement on Cambodian Law

BK3009012594 Hanoi VNA in English 1517 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept 29—The Vietnam Lawyers' Association extremely worried about certain provisions of the newly-adopted Law on Immigration of Cambodia, especially its unforeseeable consequences on foreign residents and ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia.

In a statement released here on Sept. 27 the Vietnam Lawyers' Association (VLA) said that it was worried that foreign residents in general and ethnic Vietnamese in particular who have long lived in Cambodia, are known to be honest law-abiding, genuinely attached to the land and people of Cambodia, and who have actually contributed to the development of that country, could be subject to troubles, purging, mass deportation, detention and more dangerous still due to the abuse of the said law. The Vietnamese lawyers expressed their particular worries about the situation of ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia who were kidnapped and killed, sometimes would be victims of more serious terrorism.

"The Vietnamese lawyers" the statement continued "earnestly call for their colleagues in Cambodia and other countries, particularly countries participating in the signing of the Paris agreement on Cambodia in 1991 to raise their voice to protect the Vietnamese nationals' peaceful life in Cambodia".

"The VLA has supported a letter dated August 30 from Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam to general secretary of the United Nations and the UN high commissioner for refugees and the proposals by the Vietnamese prime minister to the Cambodian co-prime ministers on the early holding of negotiations on overseas Vietnamese issue before the application of the Immigration Law", the statement concluded.

Party Paper Marks China's 45th National Day

BK3009101094 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Article by Nguyen Cong Tan, president of the Vietnam-China Friendship Association, from 30 September NHAN DAN: "Sino-Vietnamese Relations"]

[Text] The Chinese people are marking the 45th national day of the People's Republic of China [PRC] in a jubilant atmosphere. The Vietnamese people would like to avail themselves of this opportunity to convey their warmest and best wishes to the Chinese people.

The PRC came into existence 45 years ago amid the ruins of a semifeudal and semicolonial country that was heavily torn by the war. Ever since then, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China [CPC], the Chinese people have made persistent efforts to overcome countless difficulties and hardships and henceforth, effected complete changes in their country. Particularly, since the start of the 1980's, by implementing the open-door policy, the Chinese people have scored very great achievements. Production output has increased substantially. Noteworthy is the fact that on the agricultural front, not only has China secured enough food grain for more than 1 billion people, but it has also become a rice exporter. External economic relations have been quickly broadened. Many prosperous economic processing zones have come into existence. The nation has been stablized. The people's living conditions have constantly been improved. Nowadays, China has established relations with almost all countries in the region and other parts of the world and played an increasingly important role in the international arena.

Vietnam and China treasure their age-old traditional friendship and have historical and cultural similarities. In the struggle for national liberation and national construction of each country, the two peoples have supported and assisted each other. The two countries established diplomatic relations on the very day when the PRC came into existence.

It is encouraging to note that in recent years, the friendly and cooperative ties between the two countries have not only been restored but have also developed a step further in a number of fields in conformity with the aspirations and interests of the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples.

Acting as a broad, mass organization founded on 11 February 1950, the Vietnam-China Friendship Association has over the past several decades conducted active and effective activities that contribute to an improvement in mutual understanding, friendship, and cooperation between the two peoples. To date, the association has set up chapters and broadened activities in nine major provinces and cities in Vietnam, namely Lang Son, Quang Ninh, Lao Cai, Nam Ha, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Hai Phong, Ho Chi Minh City, and Ba Ria-Vung Tau.

Along with efforts to promote bilateral relations, the association has engaged in more and more energetic activities. To express the Vietnamese people's sincere feelings toward the Chinese people, the association has coordinated with agencies and localities concerned in looking after and paying frequent floral tributes to the burial sites of Chinese fallen heroes who have sacrified themselves for the cause of our people's anti-U.S. national liberation struggle. The association has also made arrangements for the Chinese Embassy in Vietnam and Chinese businessmen to tour economic and cultural facilities built with Chinese aid in the past. The association has coordinated with sectors and echelons at both the central and local levels in organizing many friendship meetings and activities to mark major historic events in China. The association has made an important contribution by helping the Ha Bac Nitrogenous Fertilizer Enterprise—a joint venture with China—increase its production output to 100,000 tonnes a year from 40,000 a year.

Especially, in September 1993, we sent a delegation headed by Comrade Nguyen Quang Tao, president of the Union of Vietnam Friendship Organizations, on a friendship visit to China at the invitations of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries and of the China-Vietnam Friendship Association. Afterward, the Vietnam-China Friendship Association made arrangements for the Saigon Light Music troupe to visit and perform in Beijing and a number of adjacent provinces and cities. Wherever they went, members of the troupe were warmly welcomed by the Chinese audience and people.

On the Chinese side, the China-Vietnam Friendship Association - the key counterpart of the Vietnam-China Friendship Association—has also conducted positive activities. The association sent a high-level delegation headed by its president, Comrade (Fu Hao), on a visit to Vietnam to discuss ways to promote the cooperative ties between the two associations in the years ahead. The association also made arrangements for the (De Lin) Circus troupe to visit and perform in Vietnam. The troupe's performances were a big success.

The activities of the Vietnam-China Friendship Association and the China-Vietnam Friendship Association have been highly valued by the two peoples. Speaking at a meeting with leading officials of the Vietnam-China Friendship Association, a veteran Chinese cadre said: For the past several decades, the Vietnam-China Friendship Association has organized very useful activities to promote the mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples. Through its very efficient deeds, the association has acted as a friendship bridge between the two nations and its role will be remembered forever by the two peoples.

On the occasion of the PRC's national day, which is a glorious national holiday of the Chinese people, we are confident that the friendship and cooperation between the two peoples will be consolidated and developed with each passing day to meet the aspirations of the two peoples and contribute to the cause of peace, stability, cooperation, and development in the region and the rest of the world.

Foreign Oil Firms Cite High Costs, Low Returns

BK3009044494 Hong Kong AFP in English 0332 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Hanoi, Sept 30 (AFP)—After getting high on the hopes of striking black gold off the shores of Vietnam, the world's oil giants have now glumly awoken to the hazards—the immense cost of investment and, so far, the meagre rewards.

The mood was subdued among foreign companies exhibiting their technological wares this week at the second International Oil and Gas Fair in Hanoi.

"The results aren't bad, but they are not as great as some had hoped," said Melchior de Matharel, head of Southeast Asia operations with the French firm Total.

If caution is now the watchword, disappointed foreign petroleum companies may draw comfort from the recent "encouraging" discoveries of oil made by Mitsubishi Oil and the Malaysian firm Petronas Carigali, and of gas made by British Petroleum (BP), off the coast of southern Vietnam.

"Oil exploration is plainly hazardous. But the good news is that the Vietnamese basin is oil-bearing," Matheral said.

Prospectors' enthusiasm was abruptly dampened last May, when BHP Petroleum of Australia announced that reserves at the Dai Hung ("Great Bear") site, 375 kilometers (235 miles) southeast of Ho Chi Minh City, were far smaller than projected.

BHP initially estimated the site to contain 700 million to 800 million barrels of oil, but has now downgraded it to 100 million to 200 million. Production is scheduled to begin next month, at a modest level of 25,000 barrels per day.

That was a tough blow for BHP. It has already invested 240 million dollars in Vietnam—and half of it went into the first phase of the Dai Hung project.

BHP headed an international consortium, selected in April 1993, to develop the field at a total cost estimated at 1.5 billion dollars. BHP holds 43.75 percent of the consortium, with Petronas holding 20 percent, and state-owned PetroVietnam 15 percent. The remaining 21.25-percent share is equally split between Total and the Japanese firm Sumitomo.

For the moment, it is the Japanese—the main buyers of Vietnam's crude oil—who appear to have had the best luck.

The Japan Vietnam Petroleum Co. (JVPC), a branch of the Mitsubishi Oil group, ann@unced in June a "very promising" discovery at the Rang Dong ("Dawn") site.

According to the results of an exploratory well, the field may be "of the same caliber" as neighbouring Bach Ho ("White Tiger"), the only site now being commercially exploited in Vietnam. Bach Ho's reserves are estimated at a maximum of 300 million barrels.

But it will take at least another year and further drillings to precisely determine the scope of the Japanese discovery, industry experts in Hanoi cautioned.

Pessimists say it will take four to five years in all to gauge Vietnam's oil potential fully.

Gas exploration and exploitation have also proven to be a risk business, although fortune has so far smiled on British Petroleum, which announced in September the discovery of two gas pockets, estimated to be 57 billion cubic metres (1,995 billion cubic feet), in Nam Con Son, south of Ho Chi Minh City.

BP and the Norwegian national company, Statoil, bought shares in the offshore concession, held by the Indian state firm Oil and Natural Gas Co. (ONGC), in 1992.

The consortium, with ONGC holding 55 percent, BP 30 percent and Statoil five percent, has conducted exploration and tests under a shared-production contract with PetroVietnam, which in turn has taken a five-percent stake on the interests of each of the European partners.

The high risks of exploration in Vietnam are not limited to lost investments. The South China Sea has been the center of Sino-Vietnamese rivalries for over a decade, a conflict that has been exacerbated by the whiff of oil in the region.

Chinese and Vietnamese ships exchanged fire in a contested area in 1988, and Beijing and Hanoi have since granted concessions to foreign oil firms on overlapping sites.

Government Denies Torture Allegations

BK3009072394 Hanoi VNA in English 0644 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Hanoi, Sept 30 (AFP)—The Vietnamese Government on Friday denied allegations by a Paris-based human rights group that political prisoners were tortured in the country's reeducation camps.

"Prisoners in Vietnam lead a normal life and are treated humanely and receive medical care if they are ill," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He added that there was "no persecution or discrimination against those detained, nor forced labour," without any mention of "political" prisoners.

The Paris-based Vietnam Committee on Human Rights, in its allegations on Tuesday, quoted from the smuggled account of a political detainee, Pham Van Thanh who denounced the "inhumane conditions" at camp A-20 in the central Phu Yen Province.

Thanh, 34, condemned to 12 years of reeducation for plotting against the regime, complained of forced labour, lack of food and poor medical care.

He claimed to know "more than 1,000 other political detainees" in southern Ho Chi Minh City and its environs, although the allegations have not been independently confirmed.

"It's not the first time that the committee has propagated misleading and malicious information," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday.

Authorities Crack Down on Car Document Forgers

BK2909134294 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Under the direction of the People's Police General Department, the Hanoi Public Security Force has investigated and uncovered a gang that specializes in fabricating documents to register illegally imported cars in Hanoi and Vinh Phu Province. Two members of the gang have been arrested. They are Le Hong Quan, born in 1960 and residing at 164-B Thi Ha-1 in Hanoi, and Do Dinh Tin, born in 1954 and a cadre in the Vinh Phu Province Travel Company. Law enforcement organs have also temporarily detained four suspect cars and are conducting intensive investigation into the case.

It should be further noted that the Hanoi Public Security Force and the Interior Ministry's economic police have been resolutely struggling against those who illicitly smuggle foreign-made cars into Vietnam, including Hanoi. Among those who have lent a helping hand to the smugglers are a number of cadres in various state organs, including some holding high positions in charge of fighting smuggling.

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